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# African Violet

*The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

January • February 2001

Volume 54

Number 1



# AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

FOR ACCURATE SERVICE, SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 1999:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$20, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$22.50; Commercial USA \$32; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

**AFFILIATES:** Chapter - \$22.00; Council, State or Region - \$22.00.

**MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION:** Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd., Box 190, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

**AFFILIATES:** For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, P. O. Box 646, Clintwood, VA 24228. E-mail clubs@avsa.org

**SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Patricia Sutton, 1707 S. 77 E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74112. E-mail sutpa01@worldnet.att.net

**AVSA OFFICE:** Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@earthlink.net

**BEST VARIETIES:** HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

**BOOSTER FUND:** Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

**BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND:** Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1958.

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND:** Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

**COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES:** Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

**COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS:** For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004.

**CONVENTION AWARDS:** Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Linda Golubski, 1416 A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

**CONVENTION PROGRAM:** Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Linda Owens, Convention Director, 1762 Stemwood Drive, Columbus, OH 43228. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

**FUTURE CONVENTION DATES:** Chicago, IL - May 27- June 3, 2001.

**CULTURE FOLDERS:** (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$9.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$8.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$6.00 per 100.

**SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER:** (postpaid): 500 to 1,000 \$20.00 per 500; 1,500 and up \$18.00 per 500.

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**JUDGING SCHOOL:** To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

**LIBRARY:** Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Carolyn Burr, 910 Almond Hill Ct, Manchester, MO 63021-7004. Email carolnburr@aol.com.

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**AVM EDITOR:** Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rrumsey@earthlink.net

**ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS:** Send to Editor.

**Please Note: Deadlines** - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

**Coming Events Deadlines:** - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. AVMad@avsa.org

**ADVERTISING DEADLINES:** Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

**"AND THE WINNERS ARE...":** Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

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## MASTER VARIETY LIST:

**MVL SUPPLEMENTS:** will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

**MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES:** 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

**FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE:** Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00.

**MEMBERSHIP CARDS:** Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE:** AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

**PLANT REGISTRATION:** Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

**RESEARCH:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

**SHOW ENTRY TAGS:** 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

**QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING:** Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

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**\$39 - 2 Years    \$58 - 3 Years**

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**\$43.00 - 2 Years    \$64.50 - 3 Years**

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# African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

January • February

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Kiwi Dazzler

Exhibited by: Nancy Price

Hybridized by: D. Snell

Standard

Photo Credit:

Winston J. Goretsky



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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



# President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

Happy New Year! I cannot believe that 2000 is already gone. The one thing that I have noticed most about retirement is that the years fly by as if they were weeks. When one is looking forward to retirement, it seems that a week IS a year. Retirement does not mean quitting work.....it means that you work harder at things you enjoy without the benefit of a paycheck! That's it for this session of Retirement 101.



It is time to put all the events of 2000 into creating new memories for 2001. Please put the AVSA convention at the top of your "places to go" list and put growing and showing at the top of your "to do" list.

This issue of the African Violet Magazine will feature all the events for the 2001 convention. Look them over, decide what tours you want to take and send your registration in early. Some of those tours fill up and you wouldn't want to miss out.

I will continue to urge you to attend the Chicago convention in March. Continue to work on your entries for "Chicago". Check out the awards list in this issue. If you plan your entries carefully you could even win enough in awards to pay for your trip!

I am pleased to announce that the new web page is up and running. A lot of work went into its creation. Work continues to make it beneficial to all of us. We owe a great deal of thanks to all who have put in countless hours on this project. I assure you, when it is completed, we will all be proud of it.

Happy growing,

Bill Foster  
AVSA President

# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email [rrumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rrumsey@earthlink.net)

## Happy 2001!

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season! After 2 years of drought, we finally had our share of rain and some cold temperatures.

The violets in my office are all grown in the deep windows, with northern and western exposures. Living in this highly humid part of the country, powdery mildew is a problem at times, especially in the winter.

I won't try to tell you that I'm an accomplished grower of African violets...too many of you have been to the AVSA office and have seen my plants! But, I have finally, after seven years with AVSA, taken heed of some of the articles I place in the AVM. I now have a repotting schedule, not a strict one, but a schedule none the less. My plants seem to be happy.

This issue of the AVM contains your "Purple Pages" convention information. Everything you need to help you plan your trip to Chicago is contained in these pages.

Be sure to read **Anne Tinari's** memories of the first Chicago convention on page 20.

Something new for the 2001 convention in Chicago is a "Growing Skills Fair", scheduled for Saturday morning, June 2, near the convention showroom. Our good friend, **Don Geiss** and his crew, will take visitors through the basics of violet growing. These demonstrations will be continuous from 9am until noon.

The Luncheon Auction in Omaha was so much fun! Jenny and I brought home a gorgeous pot to display in the AVSA office. If you have a violet-related item that you or your club

would like to donate, have a look at **Edna Rourke's** auction information on page 4.

This year our Production Manager at Becker's Printing, **Valerie Ryden**, is going to join us for a few days in Chicago. Some of you may remember Valerie from the tour of Beckers and Kay's Composition during the Houston Convention. Jenny and I are excited about her coming and want everyone to meet her. Valerie is a joy to work with and has been very helpful to both of us.

Some of our members do not get the AVM in the early days of the month and are concerned about missing the information for planting by the moon signs. We print this information courtesy of Llewellyn Publishing, from their 2001 Moon Sign Book. If your AVM arrives after the first of the month, you may want to invest in a copy of this book. The cost is \$7.95 in the US, \$11.95 in Canada. If you are ordering the book from a book store, the ISBN number is 1-56718-964-4. The planting guides for every month are in this book as well as other information.

Applications for AVSA's scholarship are now available from the office as well as on the new web site, [avsa.org](http://avsa.org). For more information, turn to page 45 in this issue.

In this issue, **Leonie Chirgwin** gives us suggestions for "Growing Species African Violets" on page 44. Houstonian **Joyce Stenger** tells us how to "Accent with Accessories" on page 30 and **Pam Kennedy** gives us tips for "Rejuvenating a Sad Plant" on page 24.



# Office Update



Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

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(409) 839-4725  
(800) 770-2872

## Happy New Year!

The New Year is already here. Where did 2000 go? I hope you all had a nice holiday season. All of us at the office enjoyed the time off to spend with our families and friends.

The summer heat proved too much for our old air-conditioning system, and with winter here we discovered that our heaters are also in bad shape. By the time you read this we will have had all new systems installed, upstairs and down. The Building Maintenance Fund was depleted with the cost of these units, so please keep that in mind if you are planning to donate to any of our AVSA funds this year.

My good friend, **Georgette Jolivette** of Arizona, was mistakenly left off the Judges List. Sorry, Georgette! Please keep her in mind if you are looking for a Judge. Contact Georgette at 1255 E. University Dr., Apt. 61, Mesa, AZ 85203-8155.

Our new AVSA web site is up and running. I would like to thank **James Rubottom** and **Jim Owens** for all their hard work on this project. Although it is still under construction it is

worth a visit. The site address is <avsa.org>. Visit the web site often to see what new information has been added.

**Bev Promersberger** is working hard to get all the affiliate club information on the site. Thanks, Bev. Affiliate clubs, get your insurance payments into the office as soon as possible. Many malls and other meeting places are now requiring this insurance. Don't wait. Do it now.

**Joe Bruns**, of Illinois, is now offering the 1st Class updates to be downloaded from the Internet. If you already own 1st Class, just send a payment of \$5.00 along with your email address to our office and Joe will send you the web site location and a password to use when downloading your update. With this annual payment of \$5, you will be able to get updates all year. If you have any questions give me a call, or email the AVSA office. Those of you who own the Show Entries Program can update your 1st Class program in the same way. Please include your 1st Class serial number.

### 4th Annual Convention Luncheon Auction

Edna Rourke • 99 Old Stratford Road  
Shelton, CT 06484-6129 • Email <Apapillon@aol.com>

#### A Special Request to all members, hybridizers and affiliates

The Fourth Annual AVSA Luncheon Auction will take place on Saturday, June 2, 2001 in Chicago. Because of the generous donations of our members, past luncheon auctions have been so much fun in addition to being a huge success.

Many of our affiliates have a great deal of talented craftsmen among their members. Won't you consider donating a violet-related item or craft to this auction either as an individual member or as a club? Hybridizers: your donations of supplies or newly introduced plant material would be most appreciated. Donations of anything violet related of a rare, unique or unusual nature would gratefully be accepted.

A listing of all donations and contributors will be listed in a special notice and will also be acknowledged in the AVM. For those of you who are online something new has been added this year. Joe Bruns has been kind enough to make an auction page as part of the Chicago AVSA 2001

Convention and Show. You can reach this site through <http://AVSA.org> and go to convention and then to the auction page. Our first donations are listed and one of them is pictured there. Janice Bruns, a miniature teddy bear artist and AVSA member of Illinois, has donated an adorable Teddy bear holding an African violet made by another AVSA member, Jean Willey of Indiana. Don Geiss of Michigan has donated a leather checkbook cover with a hand-tooled etching of an African violet, Marilyn Goldstein has donated a set of African Violet Magazines and other AV publications and I have donated an afghan with cross-stitched African violets. We are certainly off to a great start.

If you plan to make a donation or want to help in some way, please let me know as soon as possible. I'll look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks for your help and continued support.



**Al & Cathy Cornibe**  
197 Archer Drive  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
*e-mail: acornibe@rmclonestar.com*

## “MOBILES”

In case you are not familiar with a mobile, it is a type of kinetic flower arrangement that comes under the Interpretive Flower Arrangement section in the Design Division of a show.

A mobile is defined as a suspended arrangement that has asymmetrically balanced parts capable of moving independently. It should be free to rotate with movement induced by air currents.

In the Design Division, you can buy the plants and any other plant materials that you need. **So, if you do not have any African violets to enter in a show this year, enter a mobile!**

### **THE AVSA HANDBOOK FOR GROWERS, EXHIBITORS, AND JUDGES**

When you hear people talking about the AVSA Handbook, Judges Handbook, or Growers Handbook, they are referring to the *AVSA Handbook For Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*. If you do not own this excellent book yet, order it from AVSA.

We ordered our first copy from AVSA in the early 1970's. Since then, the AVSA Handbook For Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges has been revised many times to keep it updated and informative.

Be sure to read pages 67-70 for valuable information on how mobiles are judged. This book also contains information on African violets such as: their history, growing information, propagation, pests, diseases, and how they are judged. If you need information on other designs or how to become

an AVSA judge, it covers those subjects too.

### **THE SHOW SCHEDULE**

Read the entire show schedule as soon as possible; it is the “law of the show”. It will help you to understand what is expected of you as a member and as an exhibitor. If you have any questions, ask them well in advance of the show.

### **ENTERING A MOBILE**

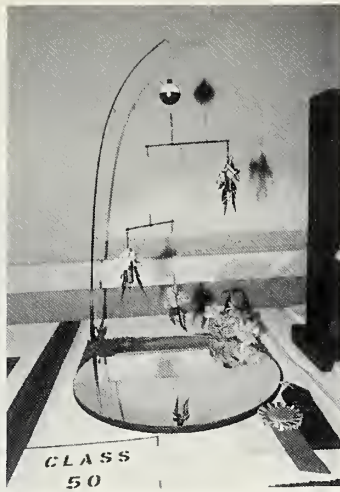
Many African violet shows require exhibitors to pre-enter their designs. This information should be listed in the show schedule.

If the show requires pre-entry, don't wait too long or the mobile class might be full. Some shows require pre-entry by mail. When this is the case, include a self-addressed, stamped post card for confirmation that your entry was received.

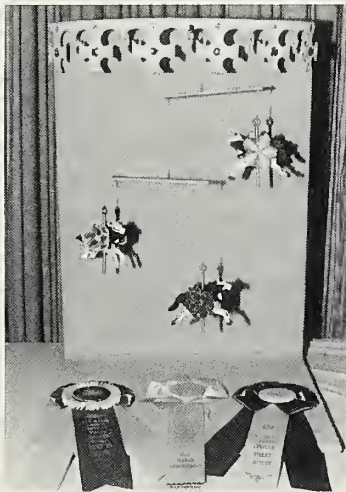
### **INTERPRETING THE CLASS TITLE**

The class title may be interpreted obviously or may be merely suggested. Judges will look for a dominant idea or story with all parts contributing to the interpretation.

When Al read the title “Fishing for Violets”, he knew right away what he wanted to do. He envisioned a fishing pole suspending his mobile with the bloom holders covered with twine, greens, and a fishing hook to resemble fishing lures. Below that, a mirror would portray the water with some moss around it. A fishing net, with blooms in it, and an old-fashioned fisherman's basket were on the moss.



After Cathy entered "Violet Carousel", she found carousel horses to interpret the title. The hollow, plastic carousel horses were sealed water tight and drilled with holes for ivy and blooms. But she still wanted some thing additional to give the feeling of the carousel itself. Cathy found a crown, at a party store, that resembled the top of a carousel when it was turned up side down. The crown worked perfectly after it was repainted and a few rhinestones were glued onto it.



Quite often, the class title will give you an idea right away. But, if it doesn't, don't worry. Just start looking for materials and an idea will come to you.

### AFRICAN VIOLET "BLOOMS"

The highlight of a mobile should be the African violet "blooms". They should be put into some type of holder, with water added, to keep them fresh.

Plastic hypodermic needle covers or the bloom holders that are sold at clubs, florists, or floral supply stores can be used. Plain or unattractive ones are usually hidden, covered, or camouflaged. The judges will definitely notice if you use something unique that goes along with the class title to hold the blooms.

### DISTINCTION & ORIGINALITY

Does your club have pictures of mobiles that won awards in past shows? If so, borrow them.

Seeing mobiles that were done by different exhibitors can be helpful. Just remember that yours should be distinct and original; not a copy of someone else's mobile.

### MATERIALS

Read the show schedule carefully to find out what is allowed. Start looking for items, in good condition, that would be appropriate, compatible, and suitable for the class title.

Keep in mind that it is an AVSA rule that the American flag, artificial plant material, and live creatures must not be used in any design.

Garage sales, flea markets, and thrift stores have reasonably priced items. You can also try florists, floral supply companies, pet stores, hobby shops, party supply stores, and doll house miniature shops. Of course, beaches are perfect for sand, shells and driftwood.

### CONSTRUCTING & BALANCING A MOBILE

If this is your first mobile, don't worry. If we can do a mobile, anyone can!

Sometimes shows provide a means for suspending your mobile. If not, you will need to construct one yourself. We usually do this first.

While working, remember that a mobile should be capable of moving freely and smoothly by air currents. Use a tape measure since judges can deduct points if materials extend beyond the dimensions listed in the show schedule for the mobile class.

Many things can be used to connect everything together, depending on the title. Fishing supplies come in very handy, especially different types of swivels. Sewing thread, or fishing line can also be used, just be sure it can hold the weight of the mobile. When tying knots, tie several knots, fisherman's knots, or add a drop of glue so the knots won't come undone.

To balance a mobile, it only takes a little patience. We prefer to balance it before adding blooms or water. When a mobile is well balanced from the start, it is easier to re-balance at the show. First, see where it needs more weight to balance it. Parts may be moved or more water, or BB pellets (sold in sporting goods stores), may be added to a bloom holder.

When you have plenty of extra African violet blooms, practice with them to see which ones look the best in your mobile. If not, use artificial flowers while you are practicing at home.

If you don't have blooms for the show, remember that you can purchase a plant and use its blooms. Or, ask friends if they have any extra blooms.

After you have finished your mobile, suspend it for a day or two at home to watch for any problems. It is easier and less stressful to fix a mobile at home, weeks before the show, than it is to fix it at the show. If any parts are breakable, place

several towels in a box below the mobile as a precaution.

### A LIST FOR THE SHOW

If you make a list of things that are "definitely needed" and "might be needed" at the show, you will feel more confident that you won't forget anything at home.

Your list may include items such as: blooms, accessories, fabric, show schedule, towel, scissors, extra thread or fishing line, BB pellets, eye dropper or hypodermic needle, small jar of water, or a tape measure. If you need a card with your mobile, include it and a pen.

Check off each item on your list as you pack it. Then, don't forget to bring everything with you when you leave for the show!

### TRANSPORTING A MOBILE

To get a mobile to the show in good condition, undo it from whatever it is suspended and place it in a sturdy box. You don't want everything swinging back and forth during the entire trip to the show. Use plenty of padding for breakable parts.

### BEFORE JUDGING

Some people prefer to suspend their mobile as soon as

they arrive at the show. Others wait until just before they add their blooms.

If possible, add the blooms on the day of judging so they will look their best. The show schedule should list the time for last minute touch-ups on designs.

Before you add water to the bloom holders with an eyedropper or hypodermic needle, cover the area below your mobile with a towel to absorb any spills. Then, add the water, blooms, and any other plant material.

If the mobile is a little off balance, see where it needs more weight. Add more water, replace a smaller bloom with a larger one, or add a few BB pellets as needed.

### AFTER JUDGING

Read the judge's comments on your mobile before you leave the show. If there is anything that you don't understand, ask a judge to explain it to you.

You deserve to be proud of yourself! Take a picture of your mobile and put it in an album so you can enjoy the memories again later. Send an extra copy of the picture to us, we would love to see your mobile!

**If there is a subject that you would like us to cover in a future column, let us know. We want to be as helpful as possible.**

## Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene Buck

17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, Arizona 85373-1958

Donations received from August 1, 2000 - September 30, 2000

Metropolitan St Louis African Violet Council, MO . . . . .	\$20.00	Luwan Murphy-Visocky, Hortonville, WI . . . . .	\$2.00	Bergen County AVS, Hackensack, NJ . . . . .	\$25.00
<i>In memory of long time member and past council President Alma Janus</i>		AVC of Morris County, Lafayette, NJ . . . . .	10.00	<i>In memory of our good friend and treasurer Jean Terwilliger</i>	
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Jack Dumas, Point Lookout, NY . . . . .	2.00	Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council . . . . .	20.00	<i>In honor of my sister, Dr. Penny L. Smith-Kerker</i>	
Marvin K. Nester, Lakeland, FL . . . . .	5.00	<i>In memory of Delpha Everding, violet enthusiast and past council member</i>		Jose E. Morato, Miami, FL . . . . .	5.00
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Sherin Boyd, Saint John, Canada . . . . .	10.00	<i>Our club has disbanded</i>		Sarah Opie, Callington, England . . . . .	5.00
C.L. Lere, Flagstaff, AZ . . . . .	5.00	Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX . . . . .	25.00	Robert E. Truax, Baton Rouge, LA . . . . .	10.00

## AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

CONTRIBUTIONS 1 AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2000

George Stein, Tracy, CA . . . . .	\$10.00	Betty Jane Ralith, Morrisville, PA . . . . .	\$5.00	Delta Gesneriad & AVS, Stockton, CA . . . . .	\$25.00
<i>Apply to California Microfilm Project</i>		Charles and Esther Edwards Wells, Liberty, MO . . . . .	25.00	<i>Apply to California Microfilm Project Fund</i>	
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Luwan Murphy-Visocky, Hortonville, WI . . . . .	2.00	<i>In everloving memory of my husband, "Big Charlie"</i>		Violet Patch of South Florida, Fort Lauderdale, FL . . . . .	25.00
Margaret Condit, Locust Grove, OK . . . . .	5.00	Central Texas Judges Council, Houston, TX . . . . .	52.00	Felicia Throop, San Diego, CA . . . . .	25.00
C L Lere, Flagstaff, AZ . . . . .	5.00	<i>Proceeds from Gesneriad raffle, in fond memory of Gladys Hudnall</i>		<i>In loving memory of Nipper. Apply to the California Microfilm Project Fund</i>	
AVC Morris County, Morristown, NJ . . . . .	10.00	The Unpredictable's AVS, Kansas City, MO . . . . .	10.00		
Nicholaus Plaksij, Westlake, CA . . . . .	1.00	Edna Monroe, Torrington, CT . . . . .	5.00		
<i>Apply to California Microfilm Project</i>		Peggy Cassarella, Southington, CT . . . . .	5.00		
				<b>TOTAL:</b> . . . . .	<b>\$1,022.00</b>





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Conventions are a lot of fun! I went to the Ohio State AVS show for many reasons including the fact I'd heard for years that they had fun members and lots of gesneriad entries. Both those facts were quite true and I had an incredibly delightful time! The bonus was that Olive Ma Robinson spoke on, 'The Fun of Home Made Terrariums', demonstrating in a short amount of time that she designs exquisite terrariums. She also grows gesneriads very well as we could see from her blue ribbon entries in the show room.

The main reason I flew to Ohio was to meet Jonathan Ford who had a booth of his blooming *Streptocarpus* hybrids for sale as well as a commercial display in the show of 17 of his hybrids. Jonathan has registered about 150 *Streptocarpus* hybrids. His most popular is *S.* 'Joker'. One of his newest hybrids of interest is *S.* 'Coral Reef', a compact plant with pink-coral blossoms that reminds me of the species *S. kentaniensis*. The blossoms have a wide darker edge on all the petals. Another new one, *S.* 'Cranberry Velvet', was stunning. It's white with a huge amount of dark cranberry veining on the petals.

Ralph 'Rob' Robinson's hybrid *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Doo Dah' with unusual mottled blossoms was outstanding as entered by Thelma Miller. Best Strep In Show went to Thelma who entered a Dibley's hybrid named 'Branwin'. Best Gesneriad Grown for Foliage was *Chirita linearifolia* grown to a very large size by Linda Neumann. I'd never seen one that large! Martha Bell entered *Achimenes* 'Double White Rose' with blossoms about 2-1/2 inches in diameter. The ever-delightful Jan Carr won Gesneriad Sweepstakes with a variety of prize winning gesneriads.

I just returned from the Texas Lone Star African Violet Convention which is always loads of fun. Shirley Sanders (Shirley's House of Violets) got Best Gesneriad with *Petrocosea duclouxii* that looks like a fuzzy "hens and chickens" plant in a 3 inch pot. Right before the show she emailed me asking if she should pinch off the 10 blossoms. She'd never seen it displayed with blossoms and thought one wasn't supposed to show it with blossoms. *P. duclouxii* is rarely in bloom for conventions! I asked Shirley how she obtained the plant. She said Gary Gordon had given her a tiny baby and some

## Convention Fun!

leaves of his show plant (not in bloom) about 8 months earlier at the Dixie convention. On her way down the hallway to her hotel room she noticed the little plant wasn't in her hand! She had accidentally dropped it. The hotel's carpet was floral and she couldn't find it! People were walking past her and she was so scared someone would smash it. She finally found it and the rest is history...it became the top winning gesneriad at the Texas convention!

Shirley's other concern was the size of her 3" pot in relationship to the 3-1/2" diameter of the plant. It would appear "over potted" to the average African violet judge since pots are normally 1/3 the size of the mature violet plant. I told Shirley not to worry about that. Luckily the judges realized that petrocoseas have extensive root systems and easily fill a 3" pot.

AVSA's President, Bill Foster, entered a very large and outstanding *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako' which won Best in Class in ornamental foliage. He also received a blue ribbon for *Chirita tamiana*. Normally *C. tamiana* is entered in the miniature class due to its small size, but Bill's entry, a single plant in full bloom, was quite large in diameter and didn't qualify for the miniature class. Exhibitors can purposely grow gesneriads as large or as small as they are able to!

Connie Leifeste and I were invited to give a "walk through" of the gesneriad section of the show after it was judged. That's a great opportunity to discuss specific gesneriad entries, especially the ones that are rarely seen. I've been invited to do the same for the AVSA convention in Chicago. I've been given permission to take a group into the show room shortly after judging is finished, discuss the entries and demonstrate how to judge a gesneriad you've rarely or never seen before!

Speaking of conventions, the Chicago convention should be outstanding for gesneriad entries since many in the central area of the United States grow them very well in basements. This environment is excellent for cooler growing gesneriads such as *streptocarpus*, *petrocosea* and *chirita*. Don't just think about attending the Chicago convention, read all the exciting activities and lectures planned for us and decide you're going! Look for me! I'll be the short, sassy, redhead in the sales room purchasing gesneriads as fast as I can!

# Question Box



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It's been a busy year. Summer seemed to end as soon as it began, and we saw our first snowflakes just yesterday (in early October, if you can believe it). We just never seem able to fully catch up with our work here. After searching for a long time, we finally added a third full-time grower to our staff. A week later, though, he hit a deer while driving to work on his motorcycle, this just a couple of weeks after we had hit one. He's healed and finally back to work now (and our car has been repaired), but it means we fell further behind. Of course, fall is always a busy time for us, with the rush of end-of-season orders and the many shows we'll attend. On top of that, we have the "leaf peepers" that drive to our area to view the fall foliage (and visit the greenhouse).

On top of that, Olive made an appearance on Martha Stewart's television show to do a demonstration on dish gardens. That meant keeping up with the sudden demand for our miniature houseplants. Since the show was taped on less than a week's notice, and aired just two weeks later, this meant a lot of work in just a little time. Still, a little celebrity is good for one's ego and the extra business helps to pay the utility bills.

As you might gather, we are much too busy to reply to mail (or e-mail), though we do read all of it. Should you want a personal reply, we are more than willing to answer phone calls made to us during our normal business hours (12-5 pm EST), since we can work and talk at the same time. For those with access to the internet, we can be reached at [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com) or via our web-site at [www.robsviolet.com](http://www.robsviolet.com). The web-site also contains a wealth of cultural information.

**QUESTION:** *Why are miniature violets small? Will it grow bigger if I pot it in a larger pot?*

**ANSWER:** The answer to this question seemed so obvious that I hesitated to include it in the column. Then I remembered all of the visitors to our shop, some of whom already grew African violets, that didn't realize the distinction between miniature and "standard" sized varieties and how they should be grown.

To begin with, "miniature" violets grow small because of their genetic makeup, not because of how they've been cared for. To be more precise, a "miniature" variety is one that typically will not exceed 6" in diameter at maturity. "Semiminatures" are slightly bigger, but still small, being allowed to grow up to 8" in diameter when mature. In fact, to be judged at an AVSA sanctioned show, they are not allowed to exceed their specified size.

These varieties have been specially bred by hybridizers to grow small. In practice, many of these varieties will grow even smaller than their allowed dimensions. The Best Miniature at last year's AVSA convention, 'Rob's Twinkle Blue', is an example. Though this plant was a bit larger, ours never exceeds 2" or 3" a real "micro" miniature.

Because these varieties are genetically limited in size, potting them into larger pots won't make them into larger plants. Being such small plants by nature, they have small root systems. Most don't have root systems much larger than 2" or so. Using pots much larger than this means that there is excess soil that the small root systems can't utilize. Since roots don't reach this excess soil, it can tend to stay excessively damp and can damage the small root system. A 2" or 2 1/4" pot is sufficient for most miniature varieties, while

semiminiatures need no more than a 2 1/2" pot. We tell visitors to the shop that miniature violets are like miniature ponies, putting a larger saddle on them won't make them into a horse.

**QUESTION:** *Several months ago I ordered several plants. One of the violets was supposed to be 'Cherries 'n Cream'. As I've grown this plant, it has bloomed well and is very healthy, but the blooms are single to semi-double reddish stars with "no edge at all". The foliage is as described. What can this particular plant be, if it's not 'Cherries 'n Cream'?*

**ANSWER:** This is a question we received from one of our mail-order customers, since we guarantee all plants to be true to description. Since the plant was true in every way except for the absence of the white edge on its bloom, we guessed that cultural conditions, the summer heat in particular, might be to blame. Many edged varieties, particularly those with blossoms thinly edged white, tend to lose this edge when grown in very warm conditions.

It seems that her growing conditions, particularly the heat, were, indeed, the problem. This is the reply we received from her. "I'm relieved to know that it is just a matter of growing conditions. What you said makes sense because I have been growing this plant in my kitchen (much warmer) with natural lighting versus in my basement (much cooler) under florescent lights. 'Cherries 'n Cream' doesn't seem to appreciate a lot of direct light like some of the other violets. I've also noticed that my variegated varieties have turned more green with the warmer weather. I wonder if this affects all bicolor blooms as well?"

All of these symptoms are consistent with growing in a very warm environment. Much, sometimes all, of the variegation can be lost in foliage, and many multicolor blooms can turn solid. Fortunately, the variegation on most varieties will return with the cooler weather. Unfortunately, this may not be the case with those with multicolor blooms, such as a "fantasy" (i.e. spotted or splashed) bloom that has turned a single, solid, color.

**QUESTION:** *In the winter, with the furnace being used, the air in our home tends to be very dry. What problems might this cause for my violets? How can I increase the humidity?*

**ANSWER:** This can be a problem for many of us. Though they don't need very humid, damp, conditions to thrive, violets won't be happy when the air is very dry. At relative humidity levels below 30% or so, they, and you, can become uncomfortable. Symptoms can include premature bud loss, or smaller than usual blooms, or brownish edges to blooms and foliage. We've also noticed that leaves on many varieties will tend to "spoon" (edges cupping upwards) under

very dry conditions. Keeping plants properly watered can be a problem too, since so much moisture is quickly evaporated from the leaf and soil surfaces.

If one grows enough plants, lack of humidity is rarely a problem. Since water evaporates from the soil and the plants themselves, grouping enough of them together increases the humidity for all of them. If this isn't possible, or isn't enough, another solution is to place the plants on a damp surface which will evaporate water and increase humidity. This might mean placing plants on a wet tray of gravel. The gravel serving to keep the pots above the water level. Watering plants with capillary mats also provides additional humidity as water is evaporated from the wet blankets. Using a community tray to wick water a number of plants does the same. Of course, if you're just as uncomfortable as your violets, using a humidifier, or installing one on your furnace, might be the best idea.

**QUESTION:** *I grow some of my violets under artificial lights on a light stand very close to my kitchen window. My miniature violets are about 10" below the tubes. How many hours should I keep the lights on?*

**ANSWER:** We also grow our minis about 10" below the tubes, with our standard-size varieties about 18" below. Our lights remain on about 13 hours each day. These plants, however, receive no supplemental natural light. We do have two growing areas that receive a great deal of natural light as well.

The first of these are standard violets that we grow under florescent light on the lower shelf of a large bench in the glasshouse. During the summer, especially, these plants get a good deal of additional indirect sunlight. Because of this, we give them only 10 hours of artificial light during these months. We also grow many of our plants, including all of our show plants, in a room with many very large windows, the south and west walls are nearly all glass. Because we need to equalize our electricity usage throughout the day, we keep the lights turned on at night. As a result, the plants never really have a period of total darkness. From experience, I've learned that most of these plants do well only if lights are kept on for 10 hours or less, sometimes as little as 8 hours, a day.

A precise answer can't be given, since it depends upon that particular growing environment. But it is safe to say that less artificial light needs to be provided in the presence of supplemental natural light.

**QUESTION:** *Could you tell me what "geneva" edging means?*

**ANSWER:** Very simply, "geneva" edging refers to a variety with a blossom edged in white. The term "geneva" dates back to 1950, when the first plant with this characteristic,

'Lady Geneva' appeared. It had a purple blossom with white fringed petals, and was first discovered flowering at the Geneva Nurseries of California. Since then, "geneva" has been the term commonly used to describe all blossoms showing a white edge, though many of today's hybridizers

choose to simply say "with white edging" when describing their varieties. I guess that knowing its meaning means that one is either well-read or "well-aged".

*Name of columnist replying is in bold print*



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS 2002

The nominations for the 2001 AVSA Board of Directors was submitted to the AVM on October 15, 2000. It is now time to get into gear for the 2002 nominations. It seems like a long time before these decisions must be made by the nominating committee, but as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, I have realized that it takes several months to get all of the necessary paper work collected so the nominating committee can go to work.

The obligations that come with serving on the AVSA Board of Directors is attendance at board meetings at the AVSA convention, service on at least one committee, and representing AVSA in your state, region, country and internationally.

I am sure that most members do not have an idea of the process that must be followed to arrive at the 5 nominees to be presented and voted on at the AVSA Convention.

- 1) Any AVSA member can submit the name of a person to be nominated for the Board of Directors. The name and address of a person who you feel would make a contribution to AVSA through participation in the Board of Directors should be submitted to the Nominating Committee Chairperson. I would like to be able to send the nomination papers to nominees as early as February 1, 2001 for the 2002 Board.

Send the name and address of the person you would like to nominate to: Barbara Pershing, 8134 Buck Ridge, Cedar Falls, IA 50613 or e-mail at [barbara.pershing@uni.edu](mailto:barbara.pershing@uni.edu)

- 2) I will mail a nomination form to the nominee, listing your name as the person who submitted their name. The nominee will then have the option to fill out and submit the nomination form to me or to reject the nomination. It would be helpful if the nominee would let the Chairman know if they choose to decline.
- 3) The nomination form requests a short biosketch that 'sells

yourself' to the committee and also requests the names and addresses of three (3) individuals who will be contacted to write references. The sooner the nomination form is returned to the Chairman, the sooner the references can be contacted and the nomination papers can be completed.

- 4) If you are contacted to write a reference, it is important that you give this serious thought and to write a paragraph in addition to checking the attributes listed on the reference form, and to do so in an expeditious manner. The references are often the only insight the committee has into how this person would contribute to AVSA as a board member and potentially as a future officer.
- 5) The nominating committee is selected at the AVSA convention and will meet to discuss the procedures. All completed nomination forms are distributed to the committee at this time. I believe that it would be beneficial if the completed nomination forms to be considered for the following year would all be available to the committee at this time. Currently, the completed forms must be submitted to the committee by September 1, with voting completed, nominees contacted, and biosketches and pictures mailed to the AVM by October 15.
- 6) Completed nomination papers are kept on file for three (3) years and the nominee, if not selected in the current year, may be considered in the following year(s). I believe it is in the best interest of AVSA that the nominating committee have several completed nominations from which to select the 5 directors.

**2001 nominees will be presented in the March/April 2000 AVM.**

Barbara Pershing  
AVSA Nominating Committee Chairman



# Just in Time

*AVSA Affiliates*  
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"I want to thank you for supplying the list of AVSA members in our area. Our sales were outstanding and the only difference was the mailing. The only thing we will do differently next year is to request that people bring the letter in for a freebie, so we can track our results."

The last Affiliate column was an overview of the suggestions to make sponsoring AVSA shows easier and less expensive. I have received other suggestions that I would like to share with you. I hope they will be "just in time" for your upcoming spring shows.

Many of you took advantage of our offer to send you the list of AVSA members near you in order for you to reach out and attract new members. Many clubs used that list differently. They used the list of AVSA members to advertise their shows. What people would be more interested in attending a violet show and sale than members of AVSA? Many clubs expressed a good response to post cards sent out using the AVSA member list which can be requested by writing to me at the address or e-mail address listed above. Please list the cities, counties or zip codes near you. Some clubs offered a free leaf or starter plant to each person who returned the post card at the show. Others offered a discount with the return of the card and a purchase. This is a good way to limit or update your mailing list to those who responded to the mailing. Another suggestion was to make sure to write down the names and addresses of the people who paid for plants by check and make certain that they get a reminder card the following year. One club who sent out reminder postcards in the past decided not to send out the cards this last year in an effort to keep expenses down. Their sales were down and they "have decided mailing is a necessity to encourage sales."

Another suggestion is to hold the club's show at the same time and place each year. The public gets accustomed to the same date or weekend. It may not always be possible, but it is definitely helpful in getting the public to return each year.

Some clubs have arranged to give away one or more show plants to the public. One club shared that they had a drawing for two show plants. A sign-up slip was available for each visitor to fill out for the drawing. The slip also listed the following for the members of the public to fill in: 1. - Name, address, phone 2. - How they heard about the show (radio, newspaper, friend, mall marquee, etc). 3. - Did they want information on growing African violets? 4. - Would they be interested in joining their club? This club found out that the mall marquee was the best source of publicity and that finding out through a friend was second.

Another club used a different method to give away a plant. A large show plant was on display with ballots asking the members of the public to vote for their choice to win the "best in show". All ballots that listed the violet that the public chose as number one were submitted for a drawing to win the plant on display.

Clubs use different methods of making follow-up contacts with those who attend the show. Some have one list for people to sign if they are interested in any future contact. Others have found it more beneficial to have more than one list, one for those interested in attending meetings, one for those interested in attending only future shows or sales, and one for those who would like to talk to someone about their violets.

One last suggestion, remember that your show is the best way to increase club membership. Any visitor is a potential member. The public should be the most important consideration. Keep in mind that many of them are anxious to see and get the plants that they see in the show. They do not realize that removing one leaf can destroy the symmetry. Be tactful and kind. Some clubs request that all their members serve as hostesses to help protect the plants and to try to help guests find a way of obtaining leaves and plants of those varieties they desire.

# Vintage Violets



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## ANGELS

I collect angels. It all started with my children. Yes, my children are angels to me. Now another angel has joined the large Elkin tribe.

Our newest angel is Melissa Janelle. Not B. J. but close. This angel arrived in July at a whopping 9 pounds 10 ounces. Can you tell she is my first GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER. Hopefully there will be many more to come. I thought that nothing could be better when my children were born. Not so, believe me.

Our African violet heritage must have been heaven sent also, because they just get better every year. Then again there are some Vintage Violets that can't be improved on. They're already great. Speaking of Heaven and Angels, I'd like to thank all the ANGELS who share.

A great big thank you to Diana of Sparks Nevada for the listing of 'Mindi's Tears' and 'Winter Ice' and to Dixie for 'Dixie Moonbeam'.

Please remember when someone is kind enough to share with you to always return the postage, asked for or not.

## AVSA Most Wanted

Aaron's West Coast Swing  
Anne's Favorite Sport  
Bavaria  
Black Russian (Wasmund)  
Cecile Ambler  
Disco Babe  
Edna's Joy  
Fancy Pants  
Hyla's Fairy Sparkles  
Jantien  
Lavender Swirls  
Red Mt. Fiji  
Rococco  
Skybird  
Summer Lightening  
Ultra Violet Saturn  
Whisper Valley

## Quick and Easy Repotting

by Sylvia Harrison • South Africa

Put a wick into the new pot in which you are putting your plant and add soil to the top of the pot. Do not press the soil down at all, just level off the excess soil, with your hand.

Take an empty pot the same shape and size as the one from which you are removing the young plant and press this empty pot down into the soil of the new pot, twisting it so that it makes an exact impression of the size required. Then take a small tool or screwdriver etc., and gently loosen the soil at the bottom of the impression. Knock the plant out of its original pot and then place it into the impression you have made,

making sure it is not too low down or too high above the rim of the new pot. Then, you don't have to fiddle with putting soil in between the two pots.

When potting up a young plant in this way, you do not need to trim the roots, etc. This is only done for the bigger plants that need to have some of their outside leaves removed. There is no shock involved when potting-up this way, therefore the flowers will not wilt at all, but will carry on blooming as before.

Have fun!

# Hybridizing

by Gary Beck

San Francisco, CA

It is truly amazing to observe how much advancement has been made in African violet flowers and foliage in the past 30 years. From a single plain blue flower have sprung a myriad of colors, shapes, and forms. But, if a hybridizer's aim is to behold a true yellow, red, or orange flower, by conventional means, then he is going to be disappointed.

Home hybridizing is nonetheless very important. Think of the varieties Fredette produced in her basement! It is a very rewarding experience; it enables one to better understand our African violet's reproduction and growth.

Scientists will make the big breakthroughs eventually via test-tube research and tissue culture research. The violet lacks the genes for the aforementioned colors; another genus must supply them, and intergenus crossbreeding is very difficult. Work is being done on introducing the colors of episcias into violets.

So why hybridize? What are the aims? Of thousands of seeds, maybe one or two may be worth saving. I feel the aim of hybridizing is simply to improve the present state of the African violet.

What improvements should we strive for? Remember that half the points of show plants represent foliage. If a plant has stretched petioles, weak color, slow growth, that plant will hit the garbage can faster than you can say "blue ribbon". We seek healthy, compact, symmetrical, and vigorous growth.

There are still many flower color combinations possible. But we must make sure the colors described are stable and pass on to next generations. New flower types are possible; the star-shape is a relatively new introduction. We seek strong flower stems, many flowers per stem, and large flowers that are long lasting.

Who should hybridize? Keep in mind that an enormous amount of space is needed. One pod can produce enough seedlings to keep you busy for months. Involved are dedica-

tion, constant supervision, knowledge, cleanliness, record-keeping, and loads of time. Trying just a few seedlings can be a rewarding learning experience.

To produce a seed pod, select a healthy flower that has been open for several days. Remove all flowers that you will not pollinate. Select a flower of another plant that might give the needed characteristics. Tap out the pollen from the yellow sacs and place on the female organ which is the green stick in the center of the flower. Make sure the pollen sticks on. Tag the cross and date it. A seed pod may be visible within weeks. The pod matures on the plant for up to six months. When it starts to brown, remove the seed pod and keep it in an envelope for several months.

Sow the seeds on a fine soilless moistened mix. Do not cover the seeds. Place a glass pane over a tray to make a "greenhouse". Sprouts will appear quickly. Begin light fertilizing after a month. When the seedlings are large enough to safely handle, transplant them to a flat with a light soil mix. They can flower there, or they can be potted up to 2 1/4 inch pots. Evaluate periodically and record. All ordinary plants should be eliminated. If you find something you like, propagate a leaf. This process must be repeated through two more generations to ascertain stability. Then decide what course of action to take.

Does the new plant improve the state of African violets? Consult other growers; have them grow and evaluate it. If it is new and different, stable, vigorous, and attractive, you may want to consult the national society to register the plant. If not, you've had fun and learned much more about our African violet's growth and reproduction. Hybridizing can be a rewarding experience!

*From the CA Council News*



# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
The Indiana Academy  
Ball State University  
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Dominant genetic traits in African violets are very easy for the hybridizer to work with. By definition, a dominant genetic trait is one that is normally expressed if present in the individual. If one parent has the dominant trait, approximately 50% of the offspring should inherit the trait. To avoid a genetic dominant trait, select parents that do not themselves show or express the trait. None of the offspring from these parents are expected to show the dominant trait. However, sometimes things don't always work out as you expect. The first several questions in this column deal with questions of hybridizing with dominant genetic traits.

**Q:** *How do I hybridize for flowers with fringed or ruffled edges?*

**A:** Fringed or ruffled flowers are a genetic dominant to smooth edged flowers. To get offspring with the trait, at least one of the parents should have fringed or ruffled flowers. If both parents have the trait, most of the offspring (75-100%) can be expected to have the trait. About 25% of the offspring will have two copies of the gene and may show more extreme amounts of ruffling in their petal edges.

**Q:** *I like crown variegated foliage in pure yellow colors without the copper overlays. How should I hybridize for this trait?*

**A:** Crown variegation is inherited as a maternal trait. Choose a plant with the color of foliage you want to serve as the seed parent. To avoid the copper overlays, make sure that the pollen parent does not have leaves with red backing. The red leaf backing trait is a genetic dominant. It will be expressed in many of the offspring, producing the copper overlays you wish to avoid. As long as the pollen parent does not have the trait, most of the offspring should have clear yellow variegation.

**Q:** *The charts I've seen for genetic traits for African violets show the fantasy flower trait to be a genetic dominant. So how did a cross of two non-fantasy flowered plants produce a number of offspring with fantasy flowers?*

**A:** I suspect that one of the parents used in this cross was a fantasy plant that had sported to solid blooms. The genetic dominant trait for fantasy flowers was still present, but wasn't being expressed. When this plant was used for hybridizing, some of the offspring inherited the dominant trait for fantasy flowers, allowing the trait to be expressed.

**Q:** *I have one of your hybrids called 'Tomorrow's Stained Glass'. The foliage is described as being solid, yet the leaves of my plant show small amounts of mosaic variegation. Is the plant mislabeled?*

**A:** I suspect that the label for your plant is accurate. This cultivar was produced out of crosses that carried the trait for mosaic variegation. Apparently the original plant contained the mutant chloroplasts for mosaic variegation, but not in high enough number for the trait to be expressed. Reproducing plants through leaf cuttings over many generations can allow the ratio of normal to mutant chloroplasts to shift. Eventually a point may be reached where the mosaic variegation trait can be expressed in the leaves. Your plant has apparently reached that point.

If you take leaf cuttings of the most variegated leaves on your plant, you may be able to produce babies with even higher amounts of mosaic variegation. If the foliage is pleasing, you might consider showing the plant as a sport.

**Q:** *I am interested in producing plants that have coral red flowers that are edged in green. I would like to use 'Green Lace' for the green edged trait and 'Tomahawk' for the coral red color. Do you think this combination will work?*



**A:** This is an interesting hybridization goal. I would suggest that crossing 'Green Lace' X 'Tomahawk' would be an excellent starting place. As far as I know, it shouldn't matter which parent is used as the seed parent and which is the pollen parent.

I would suspect that many of the first generation (F1) offspring of this cross will be fuchsia red in color. I'm not certain if they will have the green edges or not. If you do get

a nice green edged plant, try self-pollinating it or backcrossing to 'Tomahawk'. The coral red color of 'Tomahawk' is a genetic recessive. About 25% of the selfed offspring and about 50% of the backcrossed offspring should be coral red. The chance of getting a green edge will likely be higher in the selfed offspring as the trait should be able to re-enforce itself. Good luck!!

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## Chicago convention, 2001: New for commercials: the COMMERCIAL SHOWCASE!

AVSA is excited to offer a new opportunity for all commercials to participate in the AVSA convention show. In addition to specimen horticulture and display table competition, a new competition, called the "Commercial Showcase", is being offered. Please note: **exhibitors may enter EITHER a Display Table OR a Commercial Showcase, but not both.** All commercial exhibitors may enter Commercial Specimen Horticulture competition.

Essentially, Commercial Showcases are mini display tables, intended to encourage exhibitors to incorporate an element of creativity in the presentation of their showcase. Possibilities include using colored table coverings, elevating certain entries, including designs as entries, and using decorative pots to unify the exhibit. Showcase your talents, whether it be hybridizing, floral design, or simply exhibiting exceptional show plants! Your imagination is your limit!

As this is only under trial this year, there will be no ranking of the Showcases, merely ribbon awards based on each individual entry in the exhibit. Showcases which are awarded all blue ribbons will be eligible for additional awards.

Listed below are certain guidelines governing participation in Commercial Showcase competition; please consult the show schedule for additional rules. If you have any questions or comments, or wish to reserve space for a Commercial Showcase, please contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole

Drive, Olathe, Kansas 66062-3004, 913-829-4258, email: <Patter257@aol.com>.

Begin planning now to exhibit a Commercial Showcase in Chicago, 2001!

### RULES FOR COMMERCIAL SHOWCASE SECTION

1. Each display shall contain 6-10 entries (no merchandise). The display must be predominantly (more than 50%) African violets and/or designs using African violets. Gesneriads other than African violets will be judged.
2. Any African violet may be designated as competing for the New Cultivar Awards.
3. Exhibits in this section do not have entry tags; the appropriate ribbon award is placed by the plant.
4. Creativity in this section is encouraged. Containers must be neat and clean.
5. Uniformly covered table sections will be furnished for all exhibitors. They may be covered or decorated in any manner the exhibitor desires. Exhibitors may provide an identifying sign which will not be displayed until after judging is completed.
6. Entries will be merit judged according to the appropriate AVSA Scale of Points.
7. Each entry in the exhibit will receive the appropriate ribbon award, if merited.

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## TIPS BEFORE A SHOW

Recorded at a meeting of the Toronto Gesneriad Society  
by Marguerite Favro

Read the schedule over and over to be sure you know what is expected. View your plants with a critical eye, then groom. Remove all old leaves, center the plant and 'drop' in the pot so no 'neck' or long stems show. Remove suckers and flower stem ends.

Toilet tissue is a soft material to polish smooth, hard leaves. Use a very soft brush to clean the hairy ones.

Extend lights by an hour or so before the show time. One tablespoon Epsom Salts to a gallon of water to green up leaves,

or 1/4 tsp to gallon of water for every time watering. One tablespoon of Sturdy to a gallon of water stiffens up a plant just before a show.

To carry a hanging plant to show, place a mop handle through both windows of car and hang plant on handle

The plastic from cleaners' bags will cushion your plant; crumpled newspaper helps too.

Vinegar, full strength will clean up scum-like mist on glass vases and bowls.

# Problem Solving With Project Plants

by Barb Pershing  
Cedar Falls, IA

Many clubs have project plants where every club member receives a starter plant of one or two varieties. The members are to grow these plants for a year and show them at the next club show. Traditionally, our club members receive their club project plant(s) at the fall show and if they exhibit the current project plant (regardless of its condition, although it must be alive!) they receive the new one at no cost. This is an incentive to get more members to enter at least one exhibit (and help with the Standard Show Award). One wonders how there could be so many variations in the plants of the same variety all of which started out the same size just a few months earlier.

It seemed to me that we were passing up a great opportunity to use the project plants to help our members solve some of their plant 'problems' and to put the new information into practice with this year's project plants.

Slides were taken of the 1999 variegated club project plants exhibited in the show and were shown at the February club meeting. Several problems were identified (but no one had to claim any plant as theirs!). Possible causes and ways to prevent the same problems from occurring were discussed. As a follow up to this discussion and to benefit those who were not in attendance, an article was printed in the next club newsletter. Following is the text of the newsletter article.

The five most common problems found in the club project plants were:

- Few or no blossoms
- Inconsistent or lack of variegation
- Tight centers or problems with the crown
- Smaller leaves in middle row
- Lack of proper grooming

Each of these problems or conditions have causes and there are things that can be done to improve or change the growing conditions. Some of the solutions are long term and need to be considered several months before the show. The following information addresses each of the above problems with some possible things to help with this year's project plants.

## **Blossom count:**

Let's start by considering what it takes to get your plant to bloom at the right time with a lot of nice blossoms.

**Consistent use of fertilizer.** Plants should be fertilized consistently with 1/4 tsp. fertilizer to 1 gallon of water. Start out with a balanced fertilizer with the numbers 20-20-20 or 12-14-12 when the plants are young. Change to a fertilizer with a higher middle number (15-30-15) after the plant is well established and growing rapidly.

**Disbud! Disbud! Disbud!** This may be one of the hardest things for a grower to do. We all want to see those lovely blossoms, but if you want a good head of blossoms at show time, the plant should not be allowed to bloom from the time it is a young plant until about 8 weeks before show. If you must allow the plant to bloom, keep the blossom stems to one or two at a time. Follow the disbudding schedule starting three months before show. This is important because it allows the plant foliage and roots to grow and be well established before it puts its energy into producing a nice number of blossoms.

**Repot Regularly.** Repot at least every three months, but more often if the plant outgrows the pot. Remember the 1/3 rule. The pot should be 1/3 the diameter of the foliage. We know that plants like to be a bit root bound to bloom. The plant should be in the correct size pot so it has time to fill the pot with roots before it puts energy into blooming.

**Plenty of light.** Plants grown under lights are much more likely to bloom abundantly, but window grown plants also bloom well if they are near an unobstructed window. Care must be taken to provide a sheer curtain to filter the sun's rays and avoid sunburn on the leaves. Window grown plants should be rotated 1/4 turn every week to develop a nice symmetrical shape. Light stand plants also benefit from regular turning.

Distance from fluorescent light tubes also makes a difference. Standards should be 12" to 15" from top of leaves to light tubes, semi-miniatures from 8" to 10" and miniatures 6" to 8". Lights should be on at least 11 1/2 to 12 hours per day and they do need a period of 8 hours of darkness. Starting about 10 weeks before show, increase the length of light 1/2

to 1 hour per week until the lights are on 14 or 15 hours per day. If you follow this regimen of regular fertilization, regular repotting, disbudding, and adequate light you should see an increase in the number of blossoms on your project plants and other show plants. However, some of the tips on growing variegated plants seem to contradict techniques to get more blossoms. This may be the reason why variegates seem to have less bloom count than green foliage plants.

#### **Variegation:**

The slides of the project plants showed a great variation in the amount of variegation. Some plants had almost no variegation (all green), others had too much white or pink in inner rows and others had leaves with almost no green.

Variegated foliage is caused by a genetically transmitted lack of chloroplasts in the cells which shows up as areas of white or light green, rose, red, wine, pink in the leaves. We can use basically the same culture as for green varieties but due to the lack of chlorophyll, they grow more slowly.

**Light:** To maintain more consistent variegation, plants with variegated leaves should be grown at the ends of the light shelf

**Temperature:** Place variegated plants on the lowest shelf near the floor where the temperature is usually cooler. Ideal temperature for variegates is 58 degrees at night to 68 degrees during the day. At 80 degrees, certain variegated varieties tend to revert to all green. No matter how green a variegated leaf becomes, it retains its potential to variegate when in cooler temperatures. Variegated plants tend to be greener in spring and summer while the variegation returns in fall and winter.

**Fertilizer:** It is better to use a fertilizer with less nitrogen for variegated plants. Peters 5-50-17 is considered a fertilizer for variegates and also is used as a bloom booster for all plants. However, it is important to use a balanced fertilizer when the plant is growing rapidly or the leaves can become almost void of any green. Use fish emulsion which is high in nitrogen only if the variegated plant is unhealthily variegated and has very little green in the leaves.

#### **Tight centers and/or crown problems:**

**Too much light** will cause the center of the plant to

become tight. Either cut the light time back or move the plant further from the light. To check this, place a piece of tissue paper over the center of the plant for one week. If the center opens up, then you know it is a light level problem. If this doesn't work, then it may be a pest or fertilizer problem. Check very carefully for mites, as tight centers is one of the earliest signs of these pests. (Remember, club members are a great resource. Call someone to help you check for pests if you aren't sure how to do this.)

#### **Give the affected plant a lower dosage of fertilizer.**

Too much fertilizer can cause tight centers. If you have been using 1/4 tsp. per gallon consistently, cut back to 1/8 tsp. for a month. If too much fertilizer is the problem, you should see improvement in a month.

The more **root-bound** a plant gets, the tighter the center will become. If the plant hasn't been repotted recently, lift it from the pot and check it for a tight root ball that fills the pot. Repotting may be the solution.

**Smaller leaves in middle row:** This may be a result of long overdue repotting. When the centers start to grow out, you may find a 'culture break' where the leaves in the middle row are significantly smaller than the outer row or the new center row(s). This also occurs when a plant has been blooming heavily; the leaves that are formed at that time don't receive as much light and also, the plant's energy is going to the blossoms. These leaves must be removed. Given a few weeks, the leaves will fill in where these undersized leaves were removed and you won't be able to tell where you removed them. This leaf removal should be a part of the general grooming.

**Grooming:** Consistent grooming can help a plant grow into a nice symmetrical plant. One of the problems noticed on some of the project plants was that outer leaves with long petioles could have been removed which would have improved the appearance of some plants. This may have necessitated putting it into a smaller size pot. Remember - the size of the plant isn't the issue; its the general appearance, symmetry and blossom count that the judges will be looking at and this is what makes all of your plants, whether grown for show or for your own pleasure, so nice to look at. Hopefully these tips will help you have good luck with your 2000 Project Plants.

**2001  
Chicago Convention  
May 27-June 3**

# CHICAGO, WE SALUTE YOU, THE SECOND TIME AROUND!

by Anne Tinari

Let us go back in time.

Many years ago on April 24 to 26, 1952, our 6th national African Violet Society Convention was held in the city of Chicago, IL. Floyd Johnson was our President and Mrs. H. Foukes was convention chairman. Quoting from President Johnson's letter to the membership, "Our Chicago Convention was the largest in our short history." I can certainly attest to that, the beauty and memory of it all is still fresh in my mind.

Our eight commercial exhibits were the highlight of the convention. Present were Peterson's of Cincinnati, Mrs. Rosa Peters of Grand Rapids, MI, Fischers Greenhouse of Linwood, NJ, Mary Meads Select Violet House of Ohio, John C. Gent & Son of Ohio, Granger Gardens of Wadsworth, OH, and Tinari Greenhouses of PA.

Many new and interesting cultivars were introduced in the commercial exhibits. However, individual plants were not the luxurious well-groomed plants we are privileged to see in commercial exhibits today. Hybridizing was at its height, thus any color break was greatly applauded. 1952 is the year we registered and exhibited our beautiful cultivar 'Pink Luster' (the first true pink that was not patented). It was featured in color on the cover of the March 1952 African Violet Magazine.

The amateur show was well represented with classes for new seedlings and arrangements. Special emphasis was placed on educational exhibits - plant propagation, soil mixes and plant food.

Club projects were a very popular phase of the convention; clubs would exhibit as a group in a theme and setting of their choosing. Strangely enough the beautiful girl type foliage on violets was very prominent in that era. Today the girl type foliage is extinct.

We had an array of prominent speakers that in review astound me. Our dinner meeting speaker was Dr. W. D. Camp, President of American Horticulture Council. His topic was "Saintpaulia in American Horticulture". His theme dwelt on the



Anne & Frank Tinari - Chicago 1952

problem that we cannot discipline ourselves to the term *Saintpaulia*, thus preferred we adopt the term "Usambara Violet" rather than the name African violet. He also claimed we were next to the largest plant society after the Rose Society of America.

Another prominent speaker was Dr. Philip Wells, a fellow of the Royal Horticulture Society of Haddon Heights, NJ. His interesting topic was, "Gardening with Bacteria."

Dr. Marie Moore, instructor of Botany and Pathology at Michigan State College, used as her topic, "The Doctor Diagnosis," dealing with research in the field of various *Saintpaulia* ills.

Many AVSA awards were given at this convention. The AVSA Silver Cup Awarded to Mrs. George Pendleton of Kansas City, MO, for the Best Show Plant of 'Red Waves'.

The Certificate of Bronze Medal Award was given to Helen Van Pelt Wilson in recognition of continued devotion in her stories and books written about African violets. One of her famous books published in September 1951 was dedicated to the African Violet Society of America, Inc.



The certificate of Bronze Medal Award to Helen Van Pelt Wilson - 1952

An honorary annual Membership Award was given posthumously to Mrs. William K. DuPont for Meritorious Horticulture Achievement in originating the DuPont strain of *Saintpaulia*. Honorary Annual Membership Award (1 year) was awarded to Harriet F. Lawton of Long Meadow, MA, and an Honorary Annual Membership Award (1 year) was given to Carolyn Rector of San Pedro, CA for the origination and introduction of the Pacific strain of *Saintpaulia*.

There were several workshops and all were well-attended. Most of all we revered the old friendships and the many new ones added to the great joy of attending our wonderful conventions.

All aboard for Chicago the second time around! May it be the finest convention ever!

# GOING HOME - MY VIOLET MEMORIES

by Linda Golubski • Blue Springs, MO

In August of 2000 we loaded up our Jeep and headed from Missouri to Massachusetts for our first ever family reunion. I saw cousins I hadn't seen in over 30 years! What a wonderful time we had! But more memories awaited me.

While driving around the town of Oxford (birth place of Clara Barton-founder of the Red Cross) I took pictures of the "old homestead", my church, elementary school, junior high school, high school and baseball field (I was a Tom Boy.) Then, I saw a familiar sign in the front yard of a lovely little white house on Main Street. The sign simply said "African Violets". It was leaning against a telephone pole in front of the house. I remembered that sign from when I was a little girl.

When I was 8 or 9 years old I'd walk a mile (we lived in the country) to this lady's house and for 25 cents I'd buy my mother an African violet for Mother's Day. This kind and knowledgeable woman would tell me how to care for the plant. I remember being fascinated by the lighted stand she had in her living room which was always full of blooming African violets. I remember thinking how I'd like to have one of those someday. (Little did I know!) All of this brought back so many memories.

My mother, who was traveling with us, said I should stop. I told her it had been over 40 years, surely it wasn't the same woman. Maybe her children had the house now or maybe strangers. Maybe that's why the sign was leaning against the pole instead of being firmly planted in the front yard. My husband pulled over in front of the house and said I would never know unless I went and knocked on the door. So Mom and I got out and walked up the steps.

I could see a lighted plant stand with blooming violets on it in the middle of the living room, just like I remembered. Mrs. Helen Yeagle came to the door. I explained how I bought violets from her for my mother when I was little girl and wondered if she still sold them. She invited us in and we talked "violets" for quite awhile. My mother told her how much she had influenced and inspired me as a child into

what has been a life long love affair with African violets.

She only had one shelf of violets now and they were all the same plant with medium green foliage and double pink flowers, well grown though. She couldn't remember it's name but that wasn't important to me. I call it "Mrs. Yeagle." I asked if she would sell me one and she did. When I told her that I lived in Missouri now, she said she would pack it properly for the trip in a cereal box with slits in it to hold the pot. As she was packing up my plant, she said that it

had been a long time since anyone had bought a plant from her.

We visited a while longer and unfortunately it was time to go. Mom asked if she could take a picture of us together for my memory book and as you can see she was most accommodating. Mrs. Yeagle is a retired piano teacher with a passion for African violets. She didn't remember me and quite frankly I didn't even know her name until this visit. I always called her "The Violet Lady".

As we said our goodbye, Mrs. Yeagle said that it was good to have been remembered and I thought to myself how good it was to have such a pioneer in violets. A light stand 40 years ago, she was so ahead of her time! Mrs. Yeagle you are a treasure! Thank you.



# Natural Planting Made Easy

by Olive Ma Robinson  
Naples, NY

A "natural planting" is one of the container gardens normally listed within the design division of most standard AVSA shows. A natural planting is a miniature scene or landscape using African violets and other plants in a natural container that suggests a portion of a border, meadow, valley, cliffs, etc.

The most important part of a natural planting is the container. Rather than a dish, pot, or terrarium, the container has to be formed by natural material. Driftwood, lava, or rock are common materials. When I lived in Taiwan in a large city, and operated my greenhouse, I made dish gardens to sale. Usually I could get rocks and wood from my dealers, and these would make good decorations. I've also seen driftwood and rocks sold in some nurseries and garden centers in the States. Personally, when I make a natural planting, I prefer to collect my container from "mother nature" - the woods or the beach. Rob and I collected two large boxes of sea drift woods, rocks, and mosses on the drive home from the convention in California.

The natural planting that I made for the 1997 New York State AVS show was made using a piece of rock that I had found in the woods behind Rob's barn. Another container was a piece of wood that I found there. I especially like to use wood or rocks that are found with moss or lichen already growing on their surface, since this gives them a more "natural" look. If you worry about bringing insects into your growing area, simply soak the material in a solution of 1 part bleach to 1,000 parts water for 30 minutes, then wash thoroughly. I usually just brush away the dust and rinse with tepid water. If you can collect the material in early spring, there should be less chance of also collecting insects.

Once you have the container, start to prepare the plant material. Although a violet must be used (for AVSA shows), we don't want it to overwhelm the planting. That is why it is better to use a miniature or miniature trailing African violet. The best bloom colors are blue, light blue, white, or pale pink, since these are the colors we most often see in nature. Using them can give our planting a more natural look. Besides violets, there are a lot of different miniature house plants that make good companion plants. Since we don't have time to collect what we need before shows, I started growing these plants myself when I moved to the States - that is why we have added several miniature house plants to our catalog.

Another good idea is to grow some cuttings of plants with small leaves about three months before actually making the planting. Moss is a very good "ground cover" for a natural planting. It's possible to grow moss, but I find it's easier for me just to collect mosses and then store them for later use. Usually the east side of hills grow more and healthier mosses. Good mosses grow like a carpet. It is very easy to scrape them below

the roots. Put them into a sandwich baggie, keep them moist, and they will stay fresh for a number of months.

Besides collecting the proper material, an important part of creating a natural planting is observation and imagination. Usually, a natural planting is a "free" creation, unless there is a title for this class given in the show schedule. First, find a planting area on the container you've chosen. Look at the container from different angles to see which effect is best. Sometimes, we can use more than one piece of material to build a container, so long as they appear to naturally belong together.

Picture how plants will grow naturally on your container. A useful rule of thumb is "triangles". It is a basic concept in oriental flower arrangement. Observe how the plants naturally grow. You will find that there are triangles everywhere. A good scene will contain plants in different heights, colors, and distances, growing randomly or in small groups of odd numbers of plants. For example, when we use *Acorus minima*, which has the appearance of a miniature wild iris, we group three *Acorus* together since, in nature, wild iris often appears in such small, odd-numbered, groups.

For the growing media, I like to use sphagnum moss, rather than potting soil, for containers with very shallow planting areas. It can hold the plants firmly, even if they aren't planted upright. It can also keep the plant material alive for a long time, so long as it's kept moist. Grown in moss, plants won't grow as quickly, so that they will maintain their original shape, and the planting will keep its original appearance.

To make a planting for show, "scale" is very important. Since this is a natural landscape in miniature, the size of the plants should be proportional to the scene depicted and to each other. Avoid using plants with large leaves, especially when the container is small. A larger plant, so long as it has small leaves, can always be pruned to a smaller size.

To me, the biggest challenge is not to create a scene, but solving the technical, or engineering, problems. For this, a hot-glue gun and "U" pins are very useful. Hot glue can be used on almost anything, particularly rocks and wood, while "U" pins are perfect for working with and pinning down mosses and other small plants. Just be certain to hide all of your mechanical work.

Observe what you see when you take a walk in the woods, or view a garden, pond, valley or any other natural scene. Use your imagination when making your planting. All you need is a little practice, and you can say "give me a piece of something and let me make you a nice planting".

*From "VioletsFun" Photo Journal*

# “ And the winners are ... ”



**Mary Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**DELTA GESNERIAD AND AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*, *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **June Fallaw**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frosty Spring, Hello There, Dumplin'; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Irish Pearl, Little Pro; Best Standard: Dumplin'; Best Semiminiature: Irish Pearl, **Oscar Faoro**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Cupid's Kiss, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*, **Jeani Hatfield**. Best Miniature: Rob's Willy Nilly, **Mae Mendes**.

Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**.

**MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, SD – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Floozie, Ness 'Viking Maiden, Windy Day; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kent Stork**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Woolloomooloo; Best Standard: Shades of Autumn; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Barbara Pershing**. Best Semiminiature: Taffy Joy; Best Miniature: Petite Blarney; Best Gesneriad: *xCodonatanthus* 'Aurora', **Judy Carter**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jeanne Cotton**.

## Pasteurizing Soil

You can pasteurize soil in the oven. Fill a large pan with soil, dampen it slightly, and cover with aluminum foil. Puncture with several holes to allow the steam to escape. Place a regular oven thermometer in the center of the pan, going through the aluminum foil. Turn the oven to 400 degrees and place the pan of soil in the center of the oven until the thermometer indicates the soil in the center of the pan has reached 180 degrees. Turn the oven temperature to 180 degrees, maintaining this temperature for at least 30 minutes, or an hour is even better. If the oven temperature starts to go over 180 degrees you should open the oven door till the temperature returns to 180 degrees.

When you heat the soil to 180 degrees you eliminate unwanted organisms and insects. You retain the good organisms that are necessary to properly balance the soil structure and promote good growth. Higher temperatures tend to destroy soil structure and all organic matter.

When you bake your soil mix for 30 minutes at the following temperatures, it will kill these pests:

Nematodes	120 degrees
Damping off organisms	130 degrees
Most pathogenic bacteria/fungi	150 degrees
Soil insects and most plant viruses	160 degrees
Most weed seeds	175 degrees

You do not have to pasteurize perlite, vermiculite, charcoal or bonemeal. You pasteurize all potting soil mixes and peat moss. To eliminate some of the odors while baking, put the soil in a large plastic oven roasting bag, tie the top and cut vent holes in the bag. Place an ordinary oven thermometer in the center of the pan, going through the plastic bag, as you would when roasting meats.

From "Violets Agrowing", Cape AVS

# REJUVENATING A SAD PLANT

by Pam Kennedy

A sad plant is usually one that has not been repotted for a long time, sometimes for several years, and can have long neck and side shoots (suckers). I once saw a plant that had not been re-potted for about 8 years. The poor plant had a neck that formed a spiral around the pot several times; the leaves looked pale and were covered in a layer of dust. There was also a build up of fertilizer salts around the rim of the pot. The combination of this with the old potting mix would change pH and make the soil an unpleasant place for the plant to live. The owner told me that it had not flowered for a long time, even though she fertilized with African violet food. She was considering putting it in the rubbish bin. I explained to the lady how she could turn this sad mature plant into a lovely fresh young plant that would, after a bit of tender loving care, produce flowers again.

That is what we mean when we talk about rejuvenating. We take a sad, mature plant and make into a fresh young plant again. I wish it was as easy to do the same for people, I would be one of the first in line!

It is better if you let the plant dry out for several days so that the leaves are not quite as crisp as usual. This will help you avoid accidentally breaking off more leaves than you had intended, and it is easier to remove the old potting mix.

1. Remove any flowers and flower buds that may still be present. This will allow the plant to put all its energy in to producing new roots and foliage.
2. Remove any suckers, some of which may be quite large. If this is done carefully and they have more than a couple of leaves they can be put into small pots to produce new plants.
3. Remove the plant from the pot, then you will need to remove quite a few rows of leaves. Remember it is better to get the symmetry right at this stage to ensure that you eventually end up with a well-shaped symmetrical plant.
4. Your plant will now have a long neck which needs to

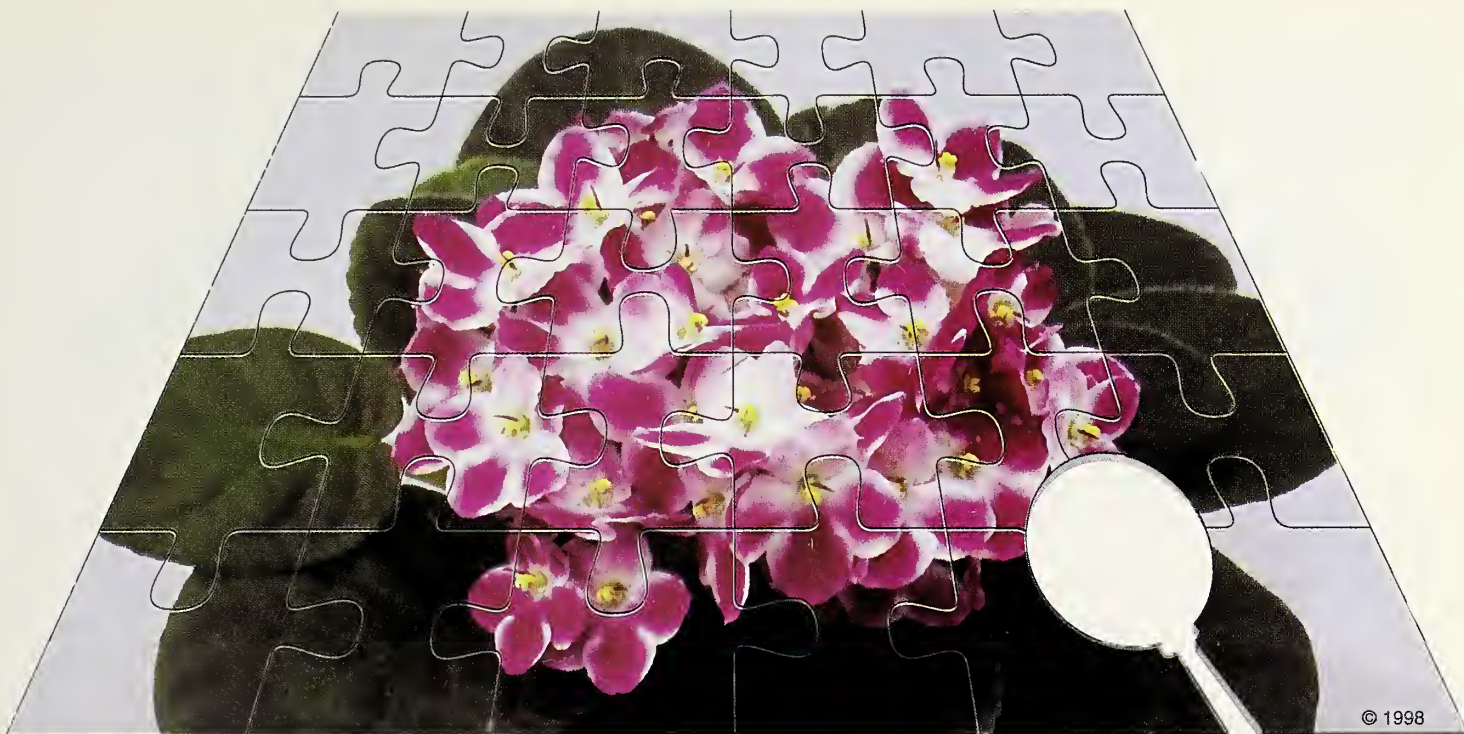
have all the leaf stubs and any brown calluses from areas where leaves have previously been removed. Scrape the stem using a clean knife (I use an ordinary table knife because it is not as sharp it doesn't tend to cut into the stem). Roots can now develop from this area. If you wish, you can use a rooting powder on the stem, but it is not necessary.

5. Remove as much soil as possible from the roots. You now have to decide whether you need to just cut off part of the root system for the plant to fit into a new pot. In extreme cases, where the neck is very long, you may need to cut off all the roots: (you will need to use a very sharp knife or extremely sharp scissors for this).
6. Your plant can now be potted in fresh potting mix; the size of the pot will depend on the size of the plant. It is better to use a small pot rather than one that is too big. Later when new roots are well established it can be potted up into a larger pot. Make sure that the plant is centered in the pot.
7. Finally, give the leaves a good brush to remove any dirt. Water your plant. I personally like to use a soluble aspirin in a litre of water as I find it helps to reduce some of the shock that the plant has received.
8. Drain your plant on newspaper overnight, or longer if necessary, to ensure it is not too wet, then place it in a warm, well lit position. If you have had to cut off all the roots you may want to cover it with a plastic bag until the roots start to develop. As soon as your plant is showing signs that it has settled into its new environment then it is time to start giving the plant fertilizer again. I would use one that is higher in nitrogen to start and once it is well-established, introduce one that is higher in phosphorus and potassium to encourage flowers.

*From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group,  
Australia and New Zealand*







## What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

### Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

### From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

### A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

### The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



# Watering Techniques

by Lisa DiMambro

The five basic ways to water your plants are: top watering, bottom watering, capillary matting, wicking, and the use of self-watering pots.

To top water, gently pour warm water onto the soil until it drains out the bottom of the pot, then empty the saucer under the plant. This is a great method of watering if you only have a few plants. Although it is time consuming, it is a great way to make sure that you are really looking at your plants each time you water. With top watering, you can use a soil that would be too heavy for wicking or matting. Top watering does tend to compact the soil so be sure that the soil does not become like cement. On the average, plants that are top watered will need to be checked every three or four days until you get a feel for how often they will need water.

Bottom watering is also a good method. Pour about 1/2 inch of water into the saucer and then empty whatever the plant does not drink after about 15 minutes. You can also use this method with minis or small plantlets in a tray, using a gravy baster to remove excess water. Again, you will need to check your plants often at first to determine how often watering is needed. Unlike top watering, bottom watering will not compact the soil, but you will need to leach your plants every 6-8 weeks to remove fertilizer salts.

Leaching is similar to top watering. Gently pour warm water onto the soil until the drainage starts to look clear. The plant will be very waterlogged so it is important to let the plant drain well before it is placed back into the saucer. It may not need watering as soon as other plants that have not been leached.

Capillary matting, wicking and self-watering pots all work in the same manner. Water is drawn up into the soil by capillary action, either by a wick or perlite. These are also called constant watering methods and require a much lighter soil mix than top or bottom watering. The lighter soil will prevent the plant from staying too wet and rotting.

Capillary mats come in many types. Some are covered in plastic that has small holes punched in it to let the water through, and others are a heavy foam or felt material. Acrylic blankets cut to size, and regular felt also work. Wet the matting material and be sure that the plant is watered before being set on top of the matting. Press down firmly to insure

that the holes in the bottom of the pot are against the mat. Some growers keep the mat moist all the time and others let it dry between waterings. This depends on your personal preference and also how light your soil mix is. With an extremely light mix, you could keep the mats moist, and with a heavier soil you can let the mat and the plants dry somewhat between waterings.

Wick watering is great for those who forget to water every week, or for those who will be away for an extended period of time. The plant needs to be in a light soil mix and you will need a wick and a container with two holes, one for the wick to go through and the other for filling the container.

Common wicks are acrylic yarn, mason's twine, cut pantyhose, or candle wicking. Do not use cotton or other natural material as it will rot. Pull at least 1 1/2 inches of wick up into the pot then set the plant in a saucer of water until the wick and the soil are moist. Fill the container, cover, and put the plant on top with the wick through the hole. If all the water is used up and the wick dries, you will need to set it in water to restart the wicking action before replacing it on the container.

Self-watering pots use perlite in the very bottom of the pot as the "wick". Generally these are two-piece pots - one pot that holds the plant and the other slips over this pot and has room at the bottom for water. Usually, there is a line in the first pot to show how much perlite to add and lines in the outer pot to show how much water to add. These also need a very light soil mix. Other self-watering pots are two piece ceramics. The inner pot is unglazed and allows the water to pass through to the soil, while the outer pot holds the water.

Experiment and find the methods that work for you. Don't change your whole collection at once until you are sure that the method will work for you.

Most commercial African violet soils work for top or bottom watering, but are too heavy for constant watering methods. Generally the addition of 1 to 2 parts perlite or coarse vermiculite to 2 parts soil will lighten it enough. Again, it is a matter of finding what works for you. Good growing!

*From Ye Bay Stater, publication of the Bay State AVS*

# DESIGN TIPS

from California winners

**Al Cornibe:** Keep your design simple. It helps if you enter a class where the title really appeals to you. With underwater arrangements, use waterproof paints if you need to repaint any accessories.

**Cathy Cornibe:** Learn to grow African violets so you'll have beautiful, show-quality ones for your designs. In Interpretive Flower Arrangements, place your blooms just before judging. Make sure to add water to their bloom tubes to keep them fresh. For driftwood, go to beaches after storms. Try garage sales, flea markets, and thrift shops for inexpensive materials.

**Laverne Cottet:** Sketch each design before starting. If there are size limitations, use graph paper for a better idea of proportions. Ferns with thin stems can be put into clear plastic straws over a pin frog. Leather fern holds up very well. Make a list of what's needed for each design (such as mechanics, greenery, props, violet color or name, tools). In advance, try to set up each design and put as much of it together as you can. At the show, put items that you'll need (such as paper towels, water, eye dropper) under a table close to your design.

**Hilda Douglas:** Remember the word "KISS" (Keep it simple, Stupid!). Take breaks and back up to look at each design. If you start with too much in a design, remove things to keep it simple.

**Mae Mendes:** For terrariums, clean the glass before judging. Use soil without perlite. Perlite is very distracting! Some cracked auto glass can make a nice stream. Plants in a terrarium must be compatible. Don't use too many accessories!

**Vivien Ragan:** After you get the show schedule and start to work on a design, use artificial foliage and blooms to work on its line. Place the design where you can see it often to make changes. Everything should be clean and free of dust.

**Pat Vinciguerra:** When shopping, keep an eye out for anything that could be used later. Look at antique shops and thrift shops. Look for straws and hypodermic needle covers to use as bloom tube holders.

*From the CA Council News*

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## Marvelous Minis

by Dorothy Bullen • Australia

Miniature and semi-miniature African violets are ideal for growers with limited space and, considering their size, provide an enormous amount of joy and satisfaction when grown successfully. Aim to grow a plant in a perfectly formed rosette with the leaves radiating like the spokes of a wheel, in layers with the largest leaves on the outside row and, of course, with plenty of colorful flowers. I think the nicest minis are those with small leaves and flowers.

My miniatures receive the same care and attention as standard plants and are repotted at least twice each year, preferably in spring and autumn. If your home is heated I don't think they mind being moved in the colder weather.

All of my plants are grown on trays in natural light in a north-facing window. They are turned each week. As buds appear above the leaves I move those plants to the rear of the trays bringing others forward to ensure that I have plenty of flowers by show time. A venetian blind or curtain must be used to shield the plants from hot sun and from cold night air. The more direct light available the more you will be rewarded with a liberal display of flowers.

Side shoots, or suckers, can be a nuisance for miniatures and it is good practice to remove them early. When propagating with leaves I usually plant three of the same variety to a

pot and when separating, only the strongest plantlets are moved on. A miniature African violet for the show table should not measure more than 6" (15 cms) in diameter and should be in a 2 1/2" (6 cms) pot. A semi-miniature African violet should be no more than 8" (20 cms) and in a 3" (7 1/2 cms) pot.

Some plants grow symmetrically quite naturally. Others have leaves that insist on twisting diabolically. They will never straighten so may as well be removed straight away. I find that I remove far more leaves from minis than from standard plants, as they tend to become very congested. Don't hesitate to remove a whole row of leaves from a plant if you think it would be an improvement.

Quarter strength fertilizer can be added to tepid water when plantlets are well established and they may be wick-watered when a strong root ball has developed. If plants are grown in soil containing no fertilizer a weak solution may be used continuously. It is wise to flush the soil through occasionally with clear water to avoid a build-up of salts.

When growing under lights the pots may be raised so that the top of the plant is within 6" (15 cms) of the tubes. Also half circle collars may be cut from plastic meat trays and slipped under the leaves to improve the shape of a plant for the show table.

# Showcase

## *Geronimo*

*2nd Best in Show*  
*2000 AVSA National Show*  
*Exhibited by: Nancy Price*  
*Hybridized by: K. Stork*  
*Large*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Buckeye Constellation*

*Exhibited & Hybridized by:*  
*Pat Hancock*  
*Large*



*Photo Credit: Pat Hancock*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Symphonette*

*Exhibited by: Beverly Williams*

*Hybridized by: Y. Lambert*

*Semiminiature*

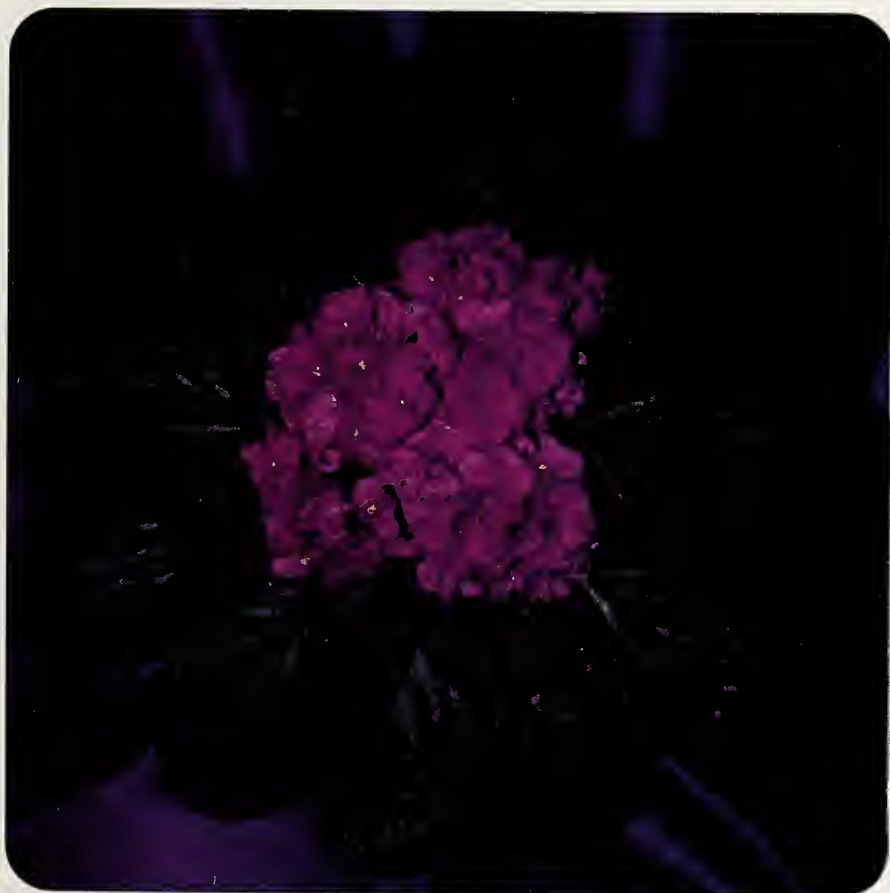


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Floozie*

*Exhibited by: Helen Barrett*

*Hybridized by: K. Stork*

*Large*

# Accent with Accessories

by Joyce Stenger  
Houston, TX

An accessory is an object or device that is not essential which adds to the beauty, convenience or effectiveness of something else such as an African violet arrangement. Deciding when to use accessories in a design requires some thought. Rules in a schedule can regulate the use of accessories in a design exhibit when entering in competition. Locating the right item to be used as an accessory can be difficult. Using the accessory so that it actually enhances the arrangement can be a challenge.

## Check the Schedule

Check the design rules for the class in which an entry will be exhibited before deciding to add an accessory. No matter how beautiful the design, it can be eliminated from being judged when it does not conform to the show schedule. Items that can be considered accessories are not always statues or figurines. Consider such items as rocks, shells, minerals, photographs, candles, books, jewelry, or ornaments. Metals, plastics, lace, ribbon, paper, or cloth should not be overlooked as being accessories by a designer.

An accessory is any component of an arrangement other than plant material, background, container, or base. Items such as driftwood, fungi, or roots can be considered accessories when the schedule requires only fresh plant material. The same rule applies to fresh vegetables or fruits when incorporated into a "dried" arrangement. These items become accessories when the material is not included in the arrangement itself.

## Where To Find Accessories

Accessories can be found around the home, at garage sales, and at flea markets or at other hobby events such as gem shows or garden parties. Country fairs, local rodeos, school events, along a seashore, or construction sites may have just what a designer needs. Treasures can be found anywhere a creative designer does the family shopping.

Begin looking for an accessory immediately after receiving and reviewing the schedule and specifically before selecting the plant material for a design. If the perfect accessory can not be found, the designer may have to re-think the design in order to use another accessory.

## Accessory Compatibility

The plant material and the accessory must be compatible in size, texture, form and color. The shape of the accessory can suggest the pattern of design which follows the line of the figure or runs counter to it. A delicate accessory such as a feather will need more delicate material. However, when the accessory is heavy such as a solid brass figure of a monk, it will need taller and more massive plant material.

An accessory can stand at a subordinate position next to an arrangement rather than within it. The best use of accessories is creating a hint of the message being conveyed. One example would be to have a bird peeking out from an arrangement to imply a park or cheerfulness. Another example would be using a strand of inexpensive black pearls wound around a chest-shaped container implying Black Beard's treasure.

Scale is important when using accessories. The object must appear in the same size ratio to the design. The character of an accessory needs to be in harmony with the color and quantity of flowers with foliage. The height or width of the accessory (whichever is greater) determines the height and width of plant materials in an arrangement. The accessory should be one-third the size of the tallest spike or point.

## How To Use Accessories Effectively

An accessory overstated incorrectly pulls the attention of the viewer away from the arrangement. The more prominent the position of an accessory, the larger it appears. A form placed within the composition appears smaller because it is less conspicuous. To develop the design with an accessory, select a base that is harmonious with the accessory and the plant material. An example would be a bamboo mat used with an oriental figure.

An accessory can perform the important function of interpreting a theme or extending the line of a symmetrical design providing visual weight and balance. When using accessories, simplicity is a greater asset than extravagant embellishment. Clean lines with restrained color and a minimum of detail reflects good taste. The accessory rule - "if there is doubt, leave it out".

*From The Dixie News*

# Why Won't My Plants Flower?

by Sae Gardner

Most people grow African violets because of their flowers. If the plants do not flower it causes a lot of frustration. Here are a series of questions you can ask yourself to ascertain what you can do to make your life full of flowers.

## 1. Is my plant healthy and fresh looking?

If you answer "no" to this, you will need to do the following. Clean any dust from the leaves by washing or brushing and remove any faded leaves. If the plant has not been repotted for 6 months, then repot it into a suitable potting mix. Check your plants for pests while you are doing this.

## 2. Is my plant kept too dry or does it regularly dry out?

If you answer "yes" to this question you really need to change your watering methods. Lack of water can cause delicate tiny buds to dry out before they develop. Change to a wick-watering method that delivers a constant amount of water.

## 3. Is the humidity in my growing area too low?

This is related to the previous question. If humidity is too low buds will dry out and die even up to the time of opening. Wick-watering can help to increase humidity and solve this problem. On very hot dry days mist your plants with a fine spray of warm water.

## 4. Is my plant too cold or too hot?

If you answer "yes" to this question you will need to change the temperature to a more comfortable one. African violets like the temperature in which humans feel comfortable and will stop flowering in very cold or very

hot weather. You may move your plants to an area that has a more suitable temperature.

## 5. Do I fertilize correctly?

If you do not fertilize, you are starving your plants. If you over-fertilize, you cause a build-up of fertilizer salts in the potting mix. This can change the pH of the mix so that the plant cannot absorb nutrients. It can also cause salts to build up on the plant and burn it. If this is the case, repot the plant and water with only diluted fertilizer.

## 6. Is the pot too large?

African violets flower best when they are just a little pot bound. If you plant them in a big pot, the roots are surrounded by a lot of potting mix and use all their energy to produce roots, then growth. The pot bound plant can also gain more oxygen from the airspace between the pot and mix. You may notice the healthy concentration of roots in this area when you remove the plant from the pot.

## 7. Does my plant receive enough light?

This is the most important requirement. African violets need 10-12 hours of bright light each day to stimulate flowering. Place your plant near a brightly-lit window, but not in direct, hot sun. If you cannot do this, use a fluorescent lamp or place under a skylight. Light produces flowers.

*From the Newsletter of the  
Early Morn AV Group, Inc., Australia*

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## Powdery Mildew

Powdery mildew is a fungus that spreads rapidly. It looks like a white powder on leaves, stems, and blossoms.

It thrives and spreads when plants are too close together, humidity is high, temperatures fluctuate (warm days, cold nights), and circulation is poor.

If only a few leaves have powdery mildew, you could try Lysol® disinfectant. Stand about a foot away from the plant and then spray a fine mist in the direction of the mildew.

As editor of the Pomona Valley "Violeteer", Iris Keating shared tips regarding powdery mildew. She mentioned that baking soda could be applied on the leaves affected with powdery mildew and that the mildew reportedly brushes right off. Iris also mentioned that she filled shallow saucers with powdered sulfur and placed them among her plants as a preventiva-

measure. On a "Tiny Wood Trail", with powdery mildew, she dusted the entire plant with powdered sulfur. After 5-6 days, she rinsed it all off without much difficulty.

There are many good fungicides on the market. If you decide to try one, ask your club members which fungicide works the best for them.

In the future, keep the following in mind:

- don't crowd your plants on a shelf
- keep humidity in the 50% - 60% range
- reduce temperature fluctuations
- run a small fan, on a timer, during the day

*From the CA Council News*

# Showcase

## *Chinook Wind*

*Exhibited & Hybridized by:*

*Kent Stork*

*3rd Best New Cultivar*

*2000 AVSA National Show*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Fanny Sue*

*Exhibited by: Tony Hullerman*

*Hybridized by: J. Brownlie*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



**AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE  
"CHICAGO"**

**2001**

**Horticulture Division – Amateur**

**SECTION I - COLLECTIONS**

**Class**

1. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single crown or three trailers) or three different species, regardless of type.
2. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures, or three semiminature trailers).
3. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants, all of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.
4. Robinson Collection of three registered Robinson plants, all of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminiatures or three semiminature trailers)

**SECTION II - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE  
BLOSSOM, GREEN FOLIAGE**

5. Dark blue and purple
6. Light to medium blue
7. Light to medium pink
8. Dark pink, rose, and coral
9. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
10. Lavender, mauve, orchid, white, cream, and blush
11. Multicolor and chimera (all shades of blue and purple)
12. Multicolor and chimera (all shades of pink, red, and yellow)
13. Fantasy
14. All edged

**SECTION III - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE  
BLOSSOM, VARIEGATED FOLIAGE**

15. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
16. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
17. White, cream, and blush
18. Multicolor and chimera
19. Fantasy and all edged

**SECTION IV - MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM**

20. Purple and all shades of blue
21. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
22. Orchid, lavender, white, cream, and blush
23. Multicolor, chimera, and all edged
24. Fantasy
25. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
26. Pink, coral, red and fuchsia, variegated foliage
27. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
28. Multicolor, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage
29. Fantasy, variegated foliage

**SECTION V - SEMIMINIATURE PLANTS,  
ANY TYPE BLOSSOM**

30. Purple and all shades of blue
31. Pink and coral
32. Red and fuchsia
33. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush
34. All edged
35. Multicolor and chimera
36. Fantasy
37. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
38. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
39. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
40. Multicolor and chimera, variegated foliage
41. All edged, variegated foliage
42. Fantasy, variegated foliage

**SECTION VI - TRAILERS, SPECIES AND VINTAGE  
VIOLETS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, ANY FOLIAGE**

43. Standard trailers
44. Miniature trailers
45. Semiminature trailers
46. *Saintpaulia* species and natural hybrids
47. Vintage Violets  
(must have been introduced at least 25 years ago)

**SECTION VII - NEW CULTIVARS**

48. Seedlings
49. Sports or mutants

**SECTION VIII - AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT IN  
UNUSUAL CONTAINER**

50. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature or semiminature in container
51. One African violet trailer in container

**SECTION IX - GESNERIADS OTHER THAN  
AFRICAN VIOLETS**

52. Miniatures in bloom (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted; no single plant more than 5" in diameter)
53. Tuberous-rooted in bloom (*Sinningia*, *Nautilocalyx*, *Chrysothemis*, etc.)
54. Scaly-rhizomed in bloom
55. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (*Streptocarpus*/*Streptocarpella*)
56. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (Long stemmed such as *Aeschynanthus*, *Columnnea*, *Nematanthus*, etc.)
57. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (All other blooming fibrous-rooted such as *Chirita*, *Episcia*, *Petrocosmea*, *Alsobia*, etc.)

58. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (All Episcia)  
 59. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (Other than Episcia)

## DESIGN DIVISION

### SECTION X - INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Each entry is a design using fresh-cut African violet blossoms. Fresh-cut, dried, treated, painted and colored plant material, and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures, and the American and national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backdrops and/or draping are permitted unless restricted by individual classes. Tables in all classes are covered in white.

60. **"Chicago O'Hare International"** - From the Douglas Aircraft factory where military planes were built during World War II to the World's Busiest Airport named in honor of WW II naval hero, Lt. Edward "Butch" O'Hare, it is a gateway to the world. A cut blossom mobile design. A black wooden frame measuring 26" H x 24" W with a center hook will be provided. No background permitted. Diameter of mobile movement not to exceed 22". Limited to 6 entries.

61. **"Glitz and Glamour"** - Chicago holds claim to some of the country's most upscale shopping. Make your cut blossom arrangement really "shine". Staged in a white niche 24" x 18" x 15". Limited to 6 entries.

62. **"Meet at the Clock"** - The Marshall Field's Big Green Clock, a landmark meeting place on the corner of State and Randolph Streets still holds its own in a bustling city. Include some type of timepiece in your cut flower arrangement. Not to exceed 8" in any dimension. Staged at eye level on a black wooden base 8" square. Limited to 8 entries.

63. **"Where the Dolls Are"** - The characters of the popular American Girl Storybooks become real with the dolls and musical revues at American Girl Place near historic Water Tower. A cut flower arrangement not to exceed 8" in any dimension staged at eye level in white niche 8-1/2" H x 8" W x 4". Limited to 8 entries.

64. **"A Study in Violets"** - The Art Institute of Chicago should have a fitting tribute to our favorite plant in their collection. Your masterpiece, a cut flower arrangement not to exceed 8" in any dimension. Staged at eye level on 8" x 8" mirrored base. No background allowed but an underlay is permitted within the base measurements. Limited to 8 entries.

65. **"John G. Shedd Aquarium"** - Home to more than 6000 freshwater and marine animals, the intricate beauty of a Caribbean reef is recreated in the 90,000 gallon Coral Reef Exhibit where divers handfeed sharks, sea turtles and other fish. An underwater design to be viewed at eye level from the front only. Not to exceed 12" in width. No background or underlay permitted. Limited to 6 entries.

66. **"The Windy City"** - Depict the theme in a cut blossom design in an abstract style. Staged in a white niche 28" x 21" x 15". Limited to 6 entries.

67. **"Music, Music, Music"** - A city where people come to have a good time, Chicago is a blues and jazz town without compare, but it also boasts one of the world's finest symphony orchestras. A cut blossom arrangement staged in a white niche 28" x 21" x 15". Limited to 6 entries.

### SECTION XI - INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

All entries in this section are to be designs using one or more blooming African violet plants, removed from their pots, with the rootball encased in plastic or some other material. Fresh cut, dried, treated, painted and colored plant materials and any man-made materials are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live creatures and the American or national flags are not permitted. Accessories, backdrops and/or draping are permitted unless restricted by individual classes. Tables in all classes are covered in white.

68. **"Da Bulls, Da Bears, Baseball"** - Chicago is big on sports. Showcase your favorite team or sport in this plant arrangement staged in a white niche 28" x 21" x 15". Limited to 6 entries.

69. **"Arlington Racetrack"** - Located in the suburb of Arlington Heights and settled in the 1830's when pioneers followed an old Indian trail into the region. Now thousands of expectant Chicagoans each year follow the same trail only on the early afternoon specials of the C&NW railroad to the track. Staged in a white niche 28" x 21" x 15". Limited to 6 entries.

70. **"Museum of Science and Industry"** - From a U-505 German submarine captured during World War II to the Apollo 8 spacecraft, the first to orbit the moon, to the first computer, there is little not covered in the museum with over 2000 exhibits. A plant arrangement staged in a white niche 28" x 21" x 15". Limited to 6 entries.

71. **"Blame the Cow"** - Popular theory about the Great Chicago Fire. Regardless of the fire's true origin, in less than 48 hours only smoldering ashes remained of a major portion of the city. Create your interpretation of this event staged in a white niche 24" x 18" x 15". Limited to 6 entries.

### SECTION XII - CONTAINER GARDENS

These designs are miniature gardens or landscapes with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plant specimens. All plants must be planted in the container. See Class for container size. No height restrictions. No cut plant materials, artificial plant materials, live or dead creatures, American or national flags are permitted. Accessories are optional. No limit on number of entries in each class, but only one entry by each exhibitor in each class.

72. **"Chicago Botanic Gardens"** - 300 acres of landscaped gardens and islands located just north of downtown Chicago make up a living museum of 18 garden areas brimming with plants. Among the most popular are the Japanese, English Walled, Naturalistic, Prairie and Rose Gardens. A covered transparent terrarium not to exceed 24" in length or width.

73. **"Beautiful Lake Michigan"** - Like diamonds on a glittery necklace, 31 Chicago beaches ring 29 miles of Lake Michigan. Oak Street Beach, located on the northern tip of the Magnificent Mile, with Lake Shore Condos towering over these sands, is just one of the most popular beaches. Johnny Weismuller, of Tarzan fame, flexed his muscles as a lifeguard here during the 1930's. A planting in a shallow dish-like container not to exceed 24" in length or width.

74. **"Grant Park"** - Site of Petrillo Music Shell, this is the place to be for the concert goers. Stars overhead and the lake by your side. A shallow dish garden with a small-scaled landscape. Not to exceed 12" in length or width.

75. "Morton Arboretum" - The 1,700 wooded acres burst with blooms when spring arrives at the Arboretum. A natural garden planted in a container formed by nature (rock, sponge, wood, shell, etc.). May have more than one planting pocket. Not to exceed 24" in length or width.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

### SECTION XIII - EDUCATION EXHIBIT

76. Education exhibit (by invitation only)

## COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

### SECTION XIV - SPECIMEN PLANTS

#### A. Collections

- 77. AVSA Collections - Standard Plants
- 78. AVSA Collections - Miniatures and Semiminiatures
- 79. Holtkamp Memorial Collections

#### B. New Cultivars (from seed or mutation)

- 80. Standard African Violets
- 81. Miniature African Violets
- 82. Semiminiature African Violets
- 83. African Violet Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

#### C. Specimen African Violets

- 84. Standard, plain green foliage
- 85. Standard, variegated foliage
- 86. Miniatures, plain foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms
- 87. Miniatures, plain foliage, all other blossoms
- 88. Miniatures, variegated foliage, any type or color blossom
- 89. Semiminiatures, plain foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms
- 90. Semiminiatures, plain foliage, all other blossoms
- 91. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms
- 92. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage, all other blossoms
- 93. Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)
- 94. *Saintpaulia* species

#### D. Gesneriads Other than African Violets

- 95. Gesneriads in bloom
- 96. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

### SECTION XV - DISPLAYS

- 97. Display Tables
- 98. Commercial Showcase

## HORTICULTURE DIVISION

### Amateur - Rules and Regulations

1. Only amateur AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.
2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, May 30, from 6:00

p.m. to 9:00 p.m. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY and on Thursday, May 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of the person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.

3. Only clean, healthy plants which have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months will be accepted.

4. Plants must be correctly named or they will be subject to correction by the classification committee.

5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be accepted. All pots must be non-decorative. DO NOT COVER POTS IN FOIL. Self-watering pots, such as Moist-Rite and Oyama, etc. may be entered in colors such as white, black, green, or any neutral tone. All other plants must be slip potted into pots in colors such as white, green or any neutral tone. Slip potting means dropping the pot containing the plant into a clean pot of the same or just a fraction larger sized pot. It is recommended that plastic be placed in the bottom of the outer pot to prevent leakage onto the table covering. This must be worked out prior to entry. Exception: trailers, trailing species, trailing gesneriads, and gesneriads in protective containers may be exhibited in the containers in which they are growing.

6. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 5 through 47.

7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 46, 47, 50, and 51 as those in classes 5 through 47.

8. All plants in classes 1 through 51 must be single-crown plants except trailers and some species, which may be multiple-crown. *S. Amazon velutina*, *S. Amazon grotei*, *S. Sigi Falls* and *S. House of Amani* will be accepted in Class 46.

9. Any number of new cultivars may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor from hybridization, from purchased seed, or from mutation; or the released rights in writing from the hybridizer have been given to the exhibitor for purchased seedlings. New cultivars may be entered by number or name, and the entry tag must indicate whether it is a new cultivar from seed or mutation. A sport (mutant) may be exhibited as a "Sport of \_\_\_\_\_." If a name has been given to the sport, the name in parenthesis may follow, such as "Sport of 'Valencia' ('Dale's Dream')." New cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.

10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and natural-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.

11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special awards.

13. Any African violet entered in any of the collection classes, receiving a blue ribbon, will be eligible for other awards.

14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3, must be AVSA registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants and must be different plants of the same type.

15. All African violets entered in the Robinson Collections, Class 4, must be AVSA registered.

16. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class: AVSA Collection, Class 1 and 2, Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3, Robinson Collection, Class 4.

17. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damage or loss.

18. Entries must be checked out on Saturday night, June 2. Instructions on check out will be given at the convention.

## DESIGN DIVISION Rules and Regulations

1. Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. ENTRIES will be accepted on Wednesday, May 30, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. FOR CONVENTION WORKERS ONLY. Entries will be accepted on Thursday, May 31, from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M. and 1:00 to 6:00 P.M. Members ON TOUR THURSDAY ONLY MUST turn in a list of design entries at the Convention registration desk on Wednesday or Thursday and MUST receive a late pass to enter on Thursday, May 31, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. Design entry books will be closed on Thursday, May 31, at 9:00 P.M. and all designs must be in place for classification. Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class and is limited to a total of 8 entries in classes 60 thru 71 (interpretive flower and plant arrangements) and 1 in each of the container garden classes 72-75.

3. Advance written reservations are required for ALL design classes. Anyone desiring to enter designs must send a completed reservation blank (or copy) from this show schedule by regular mail only, postmarked no earlier than March 15, 2001 nor later than May 5, 2001 to: Jackie Jones, Box 34, Durant, Iowa 52747. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Persons wishing to cancel confirmed reservations or ask questions concerning schedule or staging of designs may write the above address, or call (319) 785-6024. Or e-mail momjones@netins.net

## COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter this Division. A commercial exhibitor may enter EITHER a display table OR the commercial showcase, but not both. All commercial exhibitors may enter specimen horticulture, Section XIV and the Design Division, Section X.

2. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.

3. All plants must be correctly named and must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months prior to convention. All African violets must be in bloom and must be single crown plants, except trailers and some species.

4. In the Specimen Plant Section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA Collections, classes 77 and 78, and the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 79, as are entered in the other

classes. Exhibitors may enter one collection in each collection class. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA registered Optimara/Rhapsodie plants. AVSA collections rules are the same as for amateurs.

5. Only plants labeled "New Cultivar" in either Specimen Plant, Display Table or Commercial Showcase sections will be considered for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards.

6. Entries for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards may be seedlings (plants originally from seed), sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitor, or the right and ownership to them released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar".

7. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Section. Exhibitors in the Commercial Showcase section will be allotted table space sufficient for their display. Tables covers will be neutral. Reservations must be made with Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Drive, Olathe, KS 66062-3004, phone 913-829-4258, e-mail Patter257@aol.com, no later than March 1, 2001.

8. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures or semiminiatures, or miniature or semiminature trailers shall count as a specimen plant and shall be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged as one unit.

9. Exhibits in the Commercial Showcase Section shall contain 6-10 plants, either miniature, semiminature, standard or trailing African violets, or other gesneriads. Designs (flower or plant arrangements or container gardens) incorporating African violets may be included in the showcase, and will count as the equivalent of one entry. The showcase must be predominantly African violets or designs using African violets (more than 50%). No merchandise will be allowed in this section.

10. Any African violet plant on a display table or in a commercial showcase may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards.

11. On display tables, no other material, such as ivy, may be used. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.

12. In the commercial showcase, creativity in presentation is encouraged. Each entry in the exhibit will be judged and if deserved, awarded a ribbon award.

13. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted, except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be slip potted into clean, non-decorative pots in colors such as white, green or any neutral tone. The bottom of the pot containing the plant must be completely covered with plastic or aluminum foil. The pot is then inserted into a pot of the same size or shape. The inside pot may be of any color and may extend above the rim of the outside pot. Exceptions to slip potting are self contained reservoirs (i.e., Oyama, Moist Rite, etc.) in colors such as white, green, black, or any neutral tone. Pots in the Display Table Section do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual pot holders.

14. Prior to judging, signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables.

15. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges is final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

16. Only blue ribbon entries will be eligible to receive awards.

17. Entries in the Display Table section and the Commercial Showcase section will not count toward Commercial Sweepstakes or Design Sweepstakes Awards.

18. Rosettes will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors of Display Tables receiving the first, second, and third highest number of points. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the

exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of points. Rosettes will be awarded to each Commercial Showcase exhibit receiving all blue ribbon awards.

19. A Point-Score Sheet shall be given each Display Table exhibitor to show how awards were determined.

20. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damage or loss.

21. To reserve a display table, space for a commercial showcase, or for further information, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Drive, Olathe, KS 66062-3004, phone (913) 829-4258, e-mail Patter257@aol.com.



## African Violet Society of America, Inc. 2001 Tours - Chicago, IL

### Tour #1

Monday, May 28, 2001

A Chicago landmark since it opened in 1916, Navy Pier was originally

designed as both a shipping and recreation facility. The pier also served as a military training site during two world wars, a venue for concerts and exhibitions and a home to the University of Illinois. Today, Navy Pier is one of the country's most unique recreation and exposition facilities, offering something for everyone. Navy Pier encompasses more than 50 acres of parks, gardens, shops, restaurants and attractions: The Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows, fabulous large screen movies at Loew's Cineplex Navy Pier 3-D Imax Theatre, 150-foot high Ferris Wheel, old-fashioned musical carousel, tasty treats at Pier's restaurants and strolling along the Dock street, a pedestrian promenade featuring forty vendors and entertainment daily. The pier also features The Crystal Gardens and a six-story glass enclosed botanical garden. A 60-minute water tour is included in the cost.

Additional costs for this tour depend on your selection of activities while at the Pier. [Approximate additional costs, if available, are in brackets]. **Select your activities** from attending the **IMAX Theater** [\$8.75], **Shakespeare Theater**, take a Ferris wheel ride [\$2.50], museums [\$1.50 to \$10.00], or dining at many restaurants, cafes and beer gardens [\$3.50 (pizza) & up].

**Cost: \$24.00**

### Tour #2

Monday, May 28, 2001

A scrumptious buffet dinner will kick off an evening at one of the finest riverboat gaming facilities in Illinois. From slot machines to baccarat, the excitement never ends.

**Passenger Requirements:** All passengers must be 21 years of age or older and must have a Photo I.D. on their person for proof of age when boarding the Casino.

**Cost: \$22.00**

### Tour #3

Tuesday, May 29, 2001



### Hausermann's Orchids/Cantigny Museum & Park

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Grown exclusively by means of highly automated and specialized methods, Hausermann-owned greenhouses are one of the world's largest orchid ranges. Hybrid orchid varieties are grown from seed, or acquired from many growers throughout the world. A forty-five minute tour will be led by a grower, with time to go back and visit the greenhouse on your own. A gift shop is on the premises.

### Navy Pier

9:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.



On to Cantigny-Robert R. McCormick Museum, First Division Museum and formal gardens. A personal tour guide will escort us through formal rooms, bedrooms, the kitchen and the servants' area. This 35-room mansion is filled with European antiques, paintings, rare books and Asian art that McCormick collected from around the world. The First Division Museum commemorates the distinguished service of the men and women who have served their nation since its inception. Realistic, interactive exhibits. The formal gardens exhibit many midwestern varieties of plant life. We will eat lunch at the Cantigny golf course.

**Cost: \$23.00**

### Tour #4

Tuesday, May 29, 2001

From traditional favorites to unique blends, this local winery has won national awards for its hand-bottled wines. Founded in 1979 by owner Fred Koehler and his late wife, Lynn, Lynfred Winery has fueled great expansion in the Illinois grape and wine industry. Lynfred is the oldest continuously operated bonded winery in the state. They have won awards in national and international competitions, including Double Gold's for its Chardonnay in 1985 and its Lake Harvest Zinfandel in 1995. Your one and one half hour tour includes the tasting of seven types of wine. A gift shop on the premises has unique gifts that can be shipped.

Next on your tour is the well known Enesco's Back Door. Greeting us on our bus will be a representative of America's premiere source for giftware. The outlet, The Back Door Store, guarantees savings of at least 55% off thousands of gifts for all occasions, including seasonal goodies and Christmas year-round. 7,500 square feet of savings.

**Cost: \$25.00**



### Tour #5

Tuesday, May 29, 2001

Enjoy an evening of dining and jazz at Chicago's newest Jazz & Supper Club. Chicago is well known for its jazz clubs and we have reservations for you at one of its newest and finest clubs. (It's so new it isn't even open at this writing. But they assured us they will be ready for us to dine there on May 29, 2001.) Get ready for a special evening socializing with others attending the convention. We are sure you will enjoy this evening to the fullest. Come join us at The Metropolis, The Boiler Room Jazz & Supper Club for an evening you won't forget.

**Cost: \$45.00**



**Tour #6**  
Wednesday, May 30, 2001

**Historic Long Grove/Cuneo Museum**  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Historic Long Grove is a perfect destination for those whose interests lie just "off the beaten path". Settled in 1847 by the Germans, Long Grove has retained all of its 1800s charm. Enjoy strolling through the picturesque Victorian Village, browsing amid ninety quaint shops filled with unique items from around the world, galleries and restaurants housed in Victorian homesteads. Specialty food shops add to the temptations of five restaurants, for lunch or brunch and your brew is still served at the Old Zimmer Tavern.

Next, visit the Cuneo Museum and Gardens; a lavishly furnished Italianate mansion built in 1914. The museum collections include valuable Old Master Italian paintings, Flemish tapestries, porcelain, oriental rugs, and continental furnishings. The estate grounds also feature floral plantings and rose gardens accented with antique statuary and fountains.

**Cost: \$26.00**

**Tour #7**  
Wednesday, May 30, 2001

**Art Institute of Chicago**  
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Built for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, the Art Institute opened to the public on December 8, 1893. Numerous additions and alterations have been made through the present. The Art Institute houses ten curatorial departments which have collections numbering more than 300,000 works of art with one of the world's finest collections dating from 3,000 B.C. through the 1990's. See famous French Impressionist paintings and drawings, plus fine and decorative arts, photography, textiles and architectural works from America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Your experience at the Art Institute consists of an hour gallery tour, time to go back and take a further look at what interests you; find unique gifts in the Museum shop and/or take a short walk to "State Street, that great street," Marshall Field's, Carson Pirie Scott, and Garrets Popcorn to name a few of the favorites. Lunch is on your own at the Art Institute, Marshall Field's or dozens of restaurants.

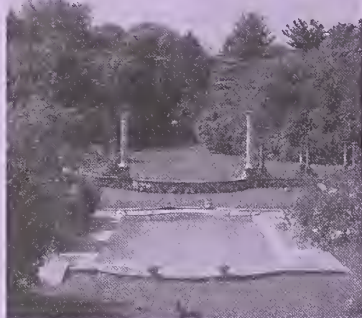
**Cost: \$33.00**

**Tour #8**  
Wednesday, May 30, 2001

**Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament**  
6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Go back to the romance and excitement of the Middle Ages in an 11th century castle. At Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament, Lords and Ladies will enter a fully enclosed, climate-controlled castle. Feast on a fabulous four-course banquet, served medieval style by wenches. Marvel at the beauty of Andalusia stallions and cheer brave knights to victory as they joust and battle with weapons and swords to the finish.

**Cost: \$49.00**



**Tour #9**  
Thursday, May 31, 2001

**Chicago's Loop/Architectural Tour**  
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Marvel at the soaring towers of Chicago's loop while enjoying sparkling river vistas. Experienced docents spotlight over 50 historic and architecturally significant sites and offer a unique perspective on the city. Open-air and indoor seating add pleasure to our journey on a ninety-minute cruise aboard a lovely vessel. After our tour you have your choice of visiting the Field Museum or shopping on Michigan Avenue.

The Field Museum was founded to house the biological and anthropological collections assembled for the world's Columbian Exposition of 1893. These objects form the core of the museum's collections, which have grown through worldwide expeditions, exchange, purchase and gifts, to more than 20 million specimens. Dinosaurs, Ancient Egypt, nature's animals, plants, ecosystems, rocks and fossils, along with the culture from Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific are among the permanent exhibits. The four Museum shops are spectacular, so you'll want some time to shop. There are restaurants on the premises.

If shopping is what fits your fancy, you've come to the right place. "The Magnificent Mile" is an international showcase of great design and style shimmering from the Chicago River to Lake Shore Drive. It is the very center of fashion and culture, ambiance and elegance. The city's finest treasures are yours for the choosing. Shop and dine. Chicago's Magnificent Mile is a shopper's paradise filled with world-renowned department stores and boutiques comprising an eclectic mix of American and International style. Tour includes a box lunch.

AVSA member Morgan Simmons, who served for 28 years as organist & choirmaster of the historic Fourth Presbyterian Church, will give a short demonstration of the organ in the Church near the end of the "Magnificent Mile". It is the largest organ in the Midwest.

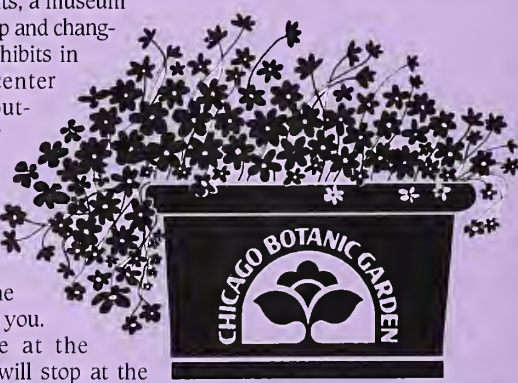
**Cost: \$52.00**

**Tour #10**  
**Chicago Botanic Garden/BAHA'I Temple/Northwestern University - The North Shore**

Thursday, May 31, 2001 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The 385-acre Chicago Botanic Garden is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (Illinois) and is managed by the Chicago Horticultural Society. Magnificent gardens, tranquil lagoons and gently rolling hills featuring aquatic, bulb, naturalistic, fruit and vegetables, home landscape demonstration gardens, waterfall garden, sensory garden for the visually impaired, a three-island authentic Japanese garden, English walled garden and a nine-acre prairie garden and nature trail. Ten greenhouses featuring more than 1,500 different plants, a museum of floral arts, gift shop and changing horticultural exhibits in the education center complement the outdoor gardens. Our narrated tram tour will take us on an overview of the gardens. There will be enough time to go back and visit the gardens that interest you. Luncheon will be at the gardens. Next we will stop at the magnificent BAHAI Temple. Our last stop on this tour is the Northwestern University, founded in 1851. Today a major private teaching and research university, the 240-acre campus stretches for nearly a mile along Lake Michigan.

**Cost: \$38.00**



## MEAL FUNCTION SEATING

Reservations received on or **before**  
**May 6, 2001** will receive table assignments.  
All reservations received after that date will  
have **unreserved seating** at meal functions.

Special meal requests must be  
made to the AVSA Office at  
time of registration. Requests  
made directly to the hotel will  
**not** be honored

## WANTED! Slides for Social Hour

Please share your slides of our 54th Omaha  
Convention. They will be shown at the Thursday night  
social hour. Include any information about the slide  
(names, state, etc.).

Slides sent in from the 2000 Omaha Convention  
will be donated to the AVSA library, unless you  
request them to be returned.

Please send your slides by May 6, 2001 to:

**Nancy G. Hayes**  
9 Cobblestone Rd.  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

## ATTENTION: Hybridizers WANTED:

Photo slides of New Introductions for the Thursday  
Night Social at the 2001 Convention in Chicago, Illinois.  
This year's narrator will be Carolyn Burr. This is an  
excellent way for seasoned and beginning hybridiz-  
ers to introduce their new HYBRIDS.

Please send two (2) slides of each new plant;  
one viewing the plant and the other a close-up of  
the blossom. Please include with your slides a  
written description of each slide, marked with a  
corresponding number for clarification. Send your  
slides before May 6, 2001, to:

**Carolyn Burr**  
910 Almond Hill Ct.  
Manchester, MO 63021

Don't forget the  
AVSA Auction at the Saturday Luncheon!  
See page 5 of the January/February 2001  
AVM for details!

# 55th Annual AVSA Convention & Show

## Sunday, May 27, 2001 to Sunday, June 3, 2001

### *"Chicago"*

#### SUNDAY, May 27, 2001

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Convention Pre-Con
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Registration
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Information

#### MONDAY, May 28, 2001

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Information
<b>9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Tour # 1 - Navy Pier</b>
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Registration
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Information
<b>6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Tour # 2 - Grand Victoria</b>

#### TUESDAY, May 29, 2001

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. to Completion	Executive Committee Meeting
<b>8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Tour # 3 - Hausermann's Orchids/Cantigny Museum &amp; Park</b>
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Information
<b>9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Tour # 4 - Lynfred Winery/Enesco's Back Door</b>
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Information
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Convention Committee Meeting
<b>6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Tour #5 - The Metropolis, The Boiler Room Jazz &amp; Supper Club</b>
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Shows and Judges Committee Meeting

#### WEDNESDAY, May 30, 2001

7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.	New Directors' Orientation
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Judging School
<b>8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Tour # 6 - Historic Long Grove/Cuneo Museum</b>
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Board of Director's Meeting
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Information
<b>9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Tour # 7 - Art Institute of Chicago</b>
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Building/Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table
	Ways and Means Table, Washington DC Promotional Table
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Board of Directors' Luncheon
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Information and Sales
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Information
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Registration
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Awards Committee Meeting
4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Affiliates' Meeting
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Classification and Entries for <b>convention workers ONLY</b>
<b>6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Tour #8 - Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament</b>



#### THURSDAY, May 31, 2001

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	Teachers Breakfast
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Registration
7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Information
<b>9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Tour #9 - Chicago Loop/Architectural Tour</b>
<b>9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Tour #10 - Chicago Botanic Gardens/BAHA'I Temple/Northwestern University - The North Shore</b>
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Nominating Committee Meeting
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room Open
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information and Sales
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Classification and Entries
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Building/Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table Ways and Means Table, Washington DC Promotional Table
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Classification and Entries
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Information
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Information and Sales
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Registration
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	President's Reception for Board of Directors
7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.	2000 Omaha Convention and New Introduction Slides
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Entries for <b>Those on Tours Only</b>
7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.	Social Break
8:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.	<b>"Let Me Tell You About My Violets", A Grower's Forum</b>
11:00 p.m.	Design Work and Commercial Display Set-ups will close for the night

#### FRIDAY, June 1, 2001

6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.	Design Exhibitors will be permitted to finish designs by adding or replacing <b>blossoms only</b> .
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Information
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Judges and Clerks Instructions
9:00 a.m. to Completion	Judging of Show
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room Open
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information and Sales
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	<b>Presentation #1</b> - "Coping With Pests Safely" by Allison Brigham
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	<b>Presentation #2</b> - "Hands-On Hybridizing" by Sharon Holtzman
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Building/Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table Ways and Means Table, Washington DC Promotional Table
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	<b>Presentation #3</b> - "Hands-On Hybridizing" by Sharon Holtzman
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	<b>Presentation #4</b> - "Meet the Hybridizer of the Rebel Series" by Ruth Bann
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Information
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Registration
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Information & Sales
1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Commercial Members Luncheon
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	<b>Presentation #5</b> - "Secrets for Success with Small African Violets" by Hortense Pittman
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	<b>Presentation #6</b> - "Advanced Judging Skills: Gesneriads" by Dale Martens
3:00 p.m. to Completion	Photography - Library and AVM
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Opening Reception (cash bar)
7:00 p.m. to Completion	Opening Dinner - Show awards will be announced
9:30 p.m. to 12:00 m/n	Show opens to <b>AVSA Convention Registrants Only</b>

#### SATURDAY, June 2, 2001

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Showroom open to photographers only
7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Judges' Breakfast and Workshop
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Registration

8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 7:00 p.m. to Completion  
 9:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.  
 9:45 p.m. to 12:00 m/n  
 10:15 p.m.  
 12:00 m/n

Information

**Presentation #7** - "Daring Design ... More than a Blue Ribbon" by Fran Russom  
**Presentation #8** - "The Latest Dirt!" Panel discussion: David Buttram,  
 Moderator Panelists: Steve Covolo, Pat Richards, Darryl Hoover  
 Hospitality Room Open  
 AVSA Information & Sales  
 "Growing Skills Fair" by Local AVSA members, Don Geiss coordinator  
 Show Room Open  
 Commercial Sales Open  
 Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials  
 for transportation into controlled countries and states  
 Building/Maintenance Fund Table, Booster Fund Table,  
 Ways and Means, Table, Washington DC Promotional Table  
 Violets "On Line" Meeting  
 Luncheon and Auction  
 Hospitality Room Open  
 Annual Membership Meeting, Open Forum and Raffles  
 President's Reception and Hospitality Hour (non-alcoholic punch provided) (cash bar)  
 Installation Banquet  
 Commercial Display Tables Checkout  
 Commercial Sales Breakdown  
 Entry Checkout Begins  
 Show Room Closes

**SUNDAY, June 3, 2001**

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Commercial Sales Breakdown  
 Local Storage Clean-up  
 Commercial Storage Clean-up  
 Show Room Clean-up  
 Board of Directors Meeting



# AVSA 2001 CHICAGO CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS

## 1. Coping with Pests Safely

Friday June 1, 2001 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

By Allison Brigham, Golden, Colorado

Allison Brigham, an aquatic biologist and grower of small African violets, will discuss many of the ways to cope effectively and safely with pests and diseases - from simple preventive measures such as hygiene and good growing conditions, to chemical and biological treatments. She will also explain integrated pest management (IPM) in which good bugs eat bad bugs. Learn how to know if it is really a pest or disease. This will be a good basic course for all levels of growers seeking safer ways to control problems.

## 2. Hands-On Hybridizing

Friday June 1, 2001 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

By Sharon Holtzman, Cincinnati, Ohio

\$5.00 fee to defray costs (collected at the door)

A hybridizer for over ten years, Sharon Holtzman has been producing and selling African violet seed to the AMF Flower Seed Company in Thailand for several years. She will share her skill as she takes participants through all of the steps of hybridizing. Each student will obtain hands-on experience cross-pollinating flowers, handling seed pods, sowing seed, and separating seedlings. Learn everything you need to develop your own perfect new violet hybrid! **Limit 30 students in session.**

## 3. Hands-On Hybridizing

(Repeat of Presentation #2)

Friday June 1, 2001 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

By Sharon Holtzman, Cincinnati, Ohio

\$5.00 fee to defray costs (collected at the door)

**Limit 30 students in session.**

## 4. Meet the Hybridizer of the Rebel Series

Friday June 1, 2001 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

By Ruth Bann, Fridley, Minnesota

Ruth Bann has earned the respect of the African violet world with her Rebel series. A member of AVSA since 1974, and a charter member of the AVSA Judges Council of Minnesota, Ruth also belongs to African Violet Society of Minnesota, and the North Star African Violet Council. She began hybridizing in search of a really good white violet, but now she confesses that she is partial to pink flowers and variegated foliage. She has a real gift for breeding violets with that rare combination of beauty and vigor. Come see why "Rebel" violets are in hot demand!

## 5. Secrets for Success with Small African Violets

Friday June 1, 2001 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

By Hortense Pittman, Celina, Texas

Learn from the best! Hortense Pittman, a recent past president of AVSA, has developed and exhibited some of the top "small" African violets in the world, including perhaps most notably 'Precious Pink'. Now retired from commercial growing, she has mastered the skills of hybridizing and growing miniature and semiminiature violets. Her plants are known for having beautiful scale of flower to foliage. Learn her secrets for growing these gems and take advantage of this special opportunity to meet this charming Texas lady.

## 6. Advanced Judging Skills: Gesneriads

Friday June 1, 2001 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

By Dale Martens, League City, Texas

Top gesneriad grower and judge, Dale Martens is one of the premier authorities in this country when it comes to the violet cousins. Dale will lead participants through the process of making correct decisions about ribbon placements so that judges may approach these classes with more confidence. She will also show how to judge rare or unusual gesneriad plants. This session will include a "judges critique" of the gesneriad section of the Chicago convention show before the show opens to the general public. Open to both AVSA judges and those interested in improving their skill for growing gesneriad plants.

## 7. Daring Design ... More than a Blue Ribbon

Saturday June 2, 2001 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

By Fran Russom, St. Louis, Missouri

Fran Russom is one of the top designers in her area and in AVSA, having often won local, regional and national design awards especially with interpretive African violet arrangements. Fran Russom's singular approach to each class in a design schedule sets her apart from many other designers. It is rarely easy to pick out which design is hers, except that it is usually the one with the most originality. Learn how to use her techniques to design artistic flower and plant arrangements that will captivate judges and earn top awards.

## 8. The Latest Dirt!

### Panel Discussion of Potting Media

Saturday June 2, 2001 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Moderator: David Buttram, Independence, Missouri

Panelists: Steve Covolo, Chicago IL; Pat Richards, Olathe KS;

Darryl Hoover, Fullerton CA

Ever tried growing violets in coconut coir, styrofoam bits, or rock wool? World supplies of peat, perlite, and vermiculite are rumored to be depleted or compromised by asbestos or other contaminants. Now is a good time to consider the pitfalls and the possibilities of other potting media and how to adapt these to African violets. Learn from the experiences of panel members who have tried new mediums in their growing environments. The audience will also have an opportunity to contribute or to ask questions of our knowledgeable panelists.



# African Violet Society of America, Inc.

55th Annual Convention & Show

May 27 - June 3, 2001 - Sheraton Arlington Park - Chicago, Illinois

## Call for 2001 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, June 2, 2001, at 2:30 p.m., at Sheraton Arlington Park, Chicago, Illinois, for the purpose of **electing Officers and Directors** and transacting business that may properly come before The Assembly.

## Call for 2001 Board of Directors Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc., Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, May 30, 2001, 9:00 a.m.-1200 noon at Sheraton Arlington Park, Chicago, Illinois, and Sunday, June 3, 2001 for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

## Call for 2001 Open Forum Meeting

The 15th annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, June 2, 2001 at Sheraton Arlington Park, Chicago, Illinois. This will take place the first twenty minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc.

## Registration For Judging School For New Students & Certificate Renewals

An AVSA judging school will be held on Wednesday, May 30, for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's school and for judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 8:00 am - 12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 pm. The registration fee is \$7.50, payable to AVSA. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons is required.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AVSA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Judging Status: Student (1st exam) \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_ Audit \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail, with registration fee of \$7.50 (make check payable to AVSA) to Sharon Johnson, 6657 E. Shadow Lake Dr., Circle Pines, MN 55014-1350. The test will be based on latest edition of the AVSA Handbook, the 1998 printing plus any updates. **Registration for the judging school must be received by April 15, 2001.**

## Attention Judges

All advanced, senior, and master judges are eligible to judge the convention show. If you would like to judge, please complete the form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2001.** If you plan to exhibit in the show, please indicate which classes you plan to enter. **DO NOT** serve on entries, classification, or placement if you apply to judge. Applications received after April 30 will be filed in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies. If selected to judge you will be notified of your assignment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AVSA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Classes entered \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Master \_\_\_\_\_ AGGS \_\_\_\_\_ Nat'l Council

Experience: \_\_\_\_\_ Minis/Semis \_\_\_\_\_ Trailers \_\_\_\_\_ Species \_\_\_\_\_ Design \_\_\_\_\_ Commercial

## Attention Judges Clerks

Student and advanced judges are invited to serve as clerks for the convention show. Any vacancies will be filled by other AVSA members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any positions remaining will be filled by members in the order in which the applications are received. All clerks will receive notification of their assignment. If you would like to clerk, please complete the form below and mail to: Bill Foster, Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These applications must be postmarked no later than April 25, 2001.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AVSA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Judge \_\_\_\_\_ AVSA Member

## Design Division Reservations

(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to enter the following design classes: (Limit eight, excluding container gardens)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Choices: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to enter Container Gardens in the following classes: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries will be accepted ONLY, if postmarked March 15, 2001 or later by regular mail. No telephone reservations will be accepted.** Reservations will be on a first come basis. Send reservations **no later than May 5, 2001**, to: Jackie Jones, P.O. Box 34, Durant, IA 52747-9733.

AVSA's 55th Annual Convention & Show  
**"Chicago"**

May 27 - June 3, 2001 - Sheraton Arlington Park - Chicago, Illinois

**AVSA Convention Registration Form**

**NOTE: Each person registering must use a separate form. Xerox copies may be used if more are needed.**

Please send this completed pre-registration form with your check, money order or credit card number made out in the appropriate amount to the Chicago, Illinois Convention Account. Mail to: The AVSA Office - 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by **May 6, 2001**. There will be a \$5.00 paperwork fee charged for cancellations. Registrations received after May 6, 2001 will be \$65.00. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information and any registration materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

Membership #	Last Name	First	Initial	Area Code/Phone #
Street or P.O. Box		Apt. #	City/State	Zip

Names of Spouse/Guests/Children if attending Convention \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Please remember to use a separate form for spouse, guest or child attending. Xerox copies may be used)**

PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

- |                          |                  |                            |                         |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) Individual Member    | (E) Judge        | (H) Commercial Member      | (K) Board Member        |
| (B) Life member          | (F) Senior Judge | (I) Judging School Teacher | (L) Affiliate President |
| (C) Honorary Life Member | (G) Master Judge | (J) Bronze Medal Winner    | (M) Non-Member (guest)  |
| (D) Associate Member     |                  |                            |                         |

This is my (#) \_\_\_\_\_ convention Name to go on Badge \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Note: If you are a Commercial Member and want your business name to appear, please write it in also.)

\_\_\_ **Yes**    \_\_\_ **No**    **Is there any possibility that you might bring horticultural exhibits?**  
**(If yes, entries information will be mailed to you.)**

In case of emergency, whom should be notified? \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Relationship	Address	City/State	Area Code/Phone #
TRAVEL BY:		ACCOMMODATIONS:	
Personal Car _____	Plane _____	Sheraton Arlington Park _____	
Rental Car _____	Airline _____	Other _____	
Other _____			
RV _____	If by plane, arrival day/date and time _____		
	If by plane, departure day/date and time _____		

**After May 6, 2001, each registration will be \$65.00 or \$68.00 respectively.**

Convention Registration:

AVSA or Associate Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$40.00	\$ _____
AVSA or Associate Member (after May 6, 2001)	\$65.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (Early Bird Discount)	\$43.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (after May 6, 2001)	\$68.00	\$ _____
International Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$35.00	\$ _____
International Member (after May 6, 2001)	\$60.00	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

Meals:

___ 1. Wed.	Board of Director's Luncheon (Chicken Breast Oriental Salad) . . . . .	\$24.00	\$ _____
___ 2. Thurs.	Teacher's Breakfast (French Toast) . . . . .	\$19.00	\$ _____
___ 3. Fri.	Commercial Luncheon (Smoked Turkey Breast) . . . . .	\$22.50	\$ _____
___ 4. Fri.	Opening Dinner (Sauteed Chicken Breast) . . . . .	\$39.50	\$ _____
___ 5. Sat.	Judges' Breakfast (Traditional Breakfast) . . . . .	\$19.50	\$ _____
___ 6. Sat.	Luncheon/Auction (Vegetable Lasagna) . . . . .	\$23.00	\$ _____
___ 7. Sat.	Installation Banquet (Roast Sirloin of Beef) . . . . .	\$40.00	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL MEALS</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 10 PER TABLE) **MUST** MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE, IN THE SAME ENVELOPE, **BEFORE May 6, 2001. THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS. RESERVATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE MAY 6, 2001 WILL RECEIVE TABLE ASSIGNMENTS. ALL RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE WILL HAVE UNRESERVED SEATING AT MEAL FUNCTIONS.** SPECIAL MEAL REQUESTS MUST BE MADE TO THE AVSA OFFICE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. **REQUESTS MADE DIRECTLY TO HOTEL WILL NOT BE HONORED.**

**TOURS: (meals are included for Tours 2, 5, 8, 9 and 10)**

___ 1. Mon., May 28	Navy Pier .....	\$24.00	\$ _____
___ 2. Mon., May 28	Grand Victoria .....	\$22.00	\$ _____
___ 3. Tues., May 29	Hausermann's Orchids/Cantigny Museum .....	\$23.00	\$ _____
___ 4. Tues., May 29	Lynfred Winery/Enesco's Back Door .....	\$25.00	\$ _____
___ 5. Tues., May 29	The Metropolis, Boiler Room Jazz & Supper Club .....	\$45.00	\$ _____
___ 6. Wed., May 30	Historic Long Grove/Cuneo Museum .....	\$26.00	\$ _____
___ 7. Wed., May 30	Art Institute of Chicago .....	\$33.00	\$ _____
___ 8. Wed., May 30	Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament .....	\$49.00	\$ _____
___ 9. Thurs., May 31	Chicago's Loop/Architectural Tour .....	\$52.00	\$ _____
___ 10. Thurs., May 31	Chicago Botanic Gardens/BAHA'I Temple .....	\$38.00	\$ _____
	<b>TOTAL TOURS</b>		\$ _____

(No meal selections required for tours)

Thursday, May 31, 2001

- \_\_\_ 7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Social Hour, Slides of 54th Omaha Convention and New Introductions
- \_\_\_ 8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. "Let Me Tell You About My Violets: A Grower's Forum", Moderator: Jack Wilson  
Panelists: Dr. Ralph Robinson, Doris Brownlie, and Kent Stork

**PRESENTATIONS:** (Please check those presentations which you wish to attend)

Friday, June 1, 2001

- \_\_\_ 1. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Coping with Pests Safely" by Allison Brigham
- \_\_\_ 2. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Hands-On Hybridizing" by Sharon Holtzman
- \_\_\_ 3. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Hands-On Hybridizing" by Sharon Holtzman
- \_\_\_ 4. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Meet the Hybridizer of the Rebel Series" by Ruth Bann
- \_\_\_ 5. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "Secrets for Success with Small African Violets" by Hortense Pittman
- \_\_\_ 6. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "Advanced Judging Skills: Gesneriads" by Dale Martens

Saturday, June 2, 2001

- \_\_\_ 7. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Daring Design ... More than a Blue Ribbon" by Fran Russom
- \_\_\_ 8. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "The Latest Dirt" Panel Discussion of Potting Media - Moderator: David Buttram  
Panelists - Steve Covolo, Pat Richards, and Darryl Hoover

**PAYMENT:**

Total Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Meals \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Tours \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL  
 PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please double check to ensure all numbers are listed correctly.**

Check one:

- Visa # \_\_\_\_\_  
Expires \_\_\_\_\_
- MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_  
Expires \_\_\_\_\_
- Check or Money Order Enclosed

**NOTE: Cancellations must be received**

by May 6, 2001 to be entitled to a refund.

There will be a \$5.00 fee for all cancellations.

Send payment and completed registration form to:

**Convention Registration**

AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722

(409) 839-4725

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (If using card)

## AVSA 2001 Chicago Convention Growers Forum

"Let Me Tell you About My Violets" . . . Grower's Forum

Thursday, May 31, 2001. . . . . 8:15 p.m.

Moderator . . . . . Jack Wilson

Panelists . . . . . Doris Brownlie, Dr. Ralph Robinson  
and Kent Stork

This is YOUR opportunity to "ask the experts". If you have questions about any aspect of growing African violets and other Gesneriads - horticulture, pests, diseases, hybridizing, soils, chemicals, planting techniques and perhaps even using African violets in designs don't miss this opportunity. This open forum is always a favorite among convention-goers.



## HOSTS – HOSTESSES

If you would like to help at the Chicago Convention by serving as a host or hostess in the show room, please send the information listed below by May 6, 2001 to: **Virginia Mann, 2727 N. Patton Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60004, (847) 392-2964, eimann@aol.com**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Non-Smoker \_\_\_\_\_ Smoker \_\_\_\_\_ No Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Age: Under 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 26-50 \_\_\_\_\_ 51 and Over \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

When you have considered your plans and wish to share a sleeping room with someone, PLEASE contact the AVSA Office immediately.

**All requests must be made by April 15, 2001** so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations which is May 6, 2001.

Please send requests to: AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722. Phone (800) 770-2872

## IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO DRIVE YOUR RV ...

Contact the AVSA Office for information





***Rob's  
Antique  
Rose***

*Exhibited by: Bruce Young  
Hybridized by: R. Robinson  
Semiminiature*

*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



***Decelles' Coralia***

*Best Variegated Standard  
AVS of Canada National Show  
Exhibited by: Tony Hulleman  
Hybridized by: Y. Decelles*

*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

# Thinking Small



**Pat Richards**  
15105 S. Seminole Drive  
Olathe, KS 66062-3004  
*email: Patter257@aol.com*

Springtime is near! I hope your holidays went well and your violets received at least a little water now and then. Spring is primary show season, and with that comes the topic for this month's column: preparing your small ones for show!

## ENTRIES

Remember, at show time presentation is everything! Fresh, open blooms are impressive while tired, slightly spent ones are not. Clean pots are dear to the heart of every judge. Slightly soiled pots or ones that show signs of residue or markers are not. Multiple layering of undamaged, healthy foliage is so appealing, while yellowed, damaged or flawed foliage and chopped down plants are not. Judges love to see plants coming into their peak, with fresh, shiny, glistening foliage. In essence, they appreciate plants that indicate the exhibitor has done everything possible to display that particular plant to its best advantage. Culture is about the growing process, while condition is pure and simple showmanship.

## CULTURE: BLOOM BOOSTING

There are several ways to bloom boost plants, and for further consideration, it is arguable that with the small ones, it is unnecessary. Let's start with that thought first.

For the small ones I recommend using a fertilizer with a 1:2:1 or a 1:3:1 ratio. If this is the fertilizer you're using on your small ones, bloom boosting is not critical. Phosphorous is the most important element in promoting large, numerous and well-colored blooms. It is important that show plants have adequate access to it 6-12 weeks prior to show when blooms are being formed. The catch-22 is that nitrogen is also important to maintaining healthy stores of energy and maintaining plant vigor, yet too much will have a diminishing effect on bloom production. Thus, if you're using a high phosphorous fertilizer, bloom boosting will diminish the supply of nitrogen and you stand the potential of minimal bloom production despite an

adequate phosphorous supply. By contrast, if you're using a balanced fertilizer, with more of a 1:1:1 ratio, bloom boosting is critical because you are short on adequate amounts of phosphorous (phosphorous=cell division=bloom production).

Hopefully, through that entire explanation, you can see how critical it is not to move your plants to an entirely high phosphorous fertilizer for extended periods of time.

The old school suggests using high phosphorous fertilizer (7-55-14, etc.) for 6-10 weeks before show, and resuming regular fertilization from six weeks up until show time. During this time you cease disbudding and allow the bloom stalks to form, depending on the bloom type, weather conditions, etc.

The method I'd like to suggest is a little more complicated, but, I believe more effective. Beginning at 12 weeks, pour through the root ball with a high phosphorous fertilizer solution, maintaining your regular fertilization patterns. Then, every two weeks thereafter up to six weeks before show, pour through again with the high phosphorous solution. From six weeks on return solely to regular fertilization. Two cautions: if your plants have any tendency whatsoever to be subject to over watering, do not place back onto reservoirs or matting for a few days and be very careful to use warm, not cold, water. With this method, you should observe copious amounts of bloom without sacrificing plant vigor. It is a little more labor intensive, but incredibly effective!

## CONDITION: GROOMING

The best time to groom your small ones is not the days or even a week before show, but about 8-10 weeks before the show! The reason for this is that once small ones come into bloom, because of the small size of the plant and the way the blooms tend to cover the foliage, it is almost impossible to do an adequate job of cleaning the foliage. Furthermore, by doing major grooming this far in advance, your nerves will be saved during those precious few weeks prior to show.

First, consider the size of your plant. If it is even approaching the 8" standard for semiminiatures or the 6" standard for miniatures, consider removing leaves at this point so it will not exceed size requirements. This also allows you to repot the plant, eliminating any potential stem/neck problems and allows your plant enough time for the roots to recover so the plant will not go into shock at show time. Another critical advantage is it allows you time to seek the appropriate size and color of pot to be used in slip potting.

Next, it is important to give the foliage a final cleaning before the blooms begin to clear the foliage after final disbudding. I use two spray bottles; one filled with warm water, the other with warm water with a few (a very few) drops of dish soap. First, mist the plant with the soapy water. Let it set a few minutes, maybe 3-5, but not long enough so the mist dries. Then, using a "stream", as opposed to "mist" setting, spray the soapy water off the foliage with the plain warm water. Tilt the plant over a sink or bowl, spraying only the outer 2/3 to 1/2 of the foliage, trying to avoid getting water in the crown. Continue rotating the plant, letting the water run off until the entire plant has been cleaned. Set the plant down, and using a tissue or small piece of paper towel, lightly dab any large water droplets off the foliage. Unless you're growing in sunlight, or near a cold air vent, your plants may be returned to the light stand immediately.

If you have recently repotted, make sure the petioles and leaf axils are clear of all perlite, peat, etc. This will also be a good time to ensure no suckers are hiding beneath the foliage. If they are found this early, they can be neatly and easily removed and the foliage will have plenty of time to fill in any gaps.

A final thought: as the bloom stalks begin to clear the foliage, watch carefully for any that are having trouble. Unlike standards which have longer, larger petioles that clear the foliage easily, minis and semis often are so small that if the bloom stalk has any difficulty clearing the foliage the petioles will snap and an entire set of blooms will be lost.

When show time comes, all you'll need to do is give the

foliage tips a light brushing. Use a soft, yet firm brush. Too firm and you'll damage your plant's foliage, too soft and it won't clean properly. Also, quality is important, as an inexpensive brush will leave bristles on your clean plants . . . hardly the result you're after! Be sure to work from the petiole to the leaf tip, not vice-versa, as the leaf hairs grow in that direction.

Another important time saver before a show is to debloom your plants. To "debloom" is to remove the buds that will be bloomed out before show time, saving you agonizing minutes trying to remove a spent bloom from among a cluster of fresh ones as you prepare your plants for show. Deblooming takes place up to three weeks before show. Any bud that is preparing to open should be neatly removed so no stub remains. Use a sharp pair of cuticle scissors, or if your manual dexterity is good you can use your fingernails! Remember, disbudding involves the entire bloom stalk, deblooming involves only single blooms!

#### NEXT TIME

As you can see, there is a lot to showing plants; tiny tricks and big considerations. In this issue we've only scratched the surface!

I'll close with a plant recommendation for you, and those of you who love the small ones. Forgive me, for this one is a standard, but I'll explain later. 'Ness' Dream Maker' is a chimera African violet extraordinaire, a showman's dream, and violet lover's delight! You hear talk of plants that grow themselves, well, put this one down in that category. It has lovely, perfectly symmetrical foliage of medium green that has a soft sheen to it. Furthermore, this plant simply loves to put on a show with a multitude of beautiful, softly pastel, long-lasting blooms! They are lightly ruffled with a white background and a medium to dark pink (almost coral) stripe. I'm including it in this column because so far, this is a very well behaved small growing standard for me. So, if you're limited on space, it would be a good choice for you. It's been a long time since I've been able to recommend a plant so unequivocally!

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## Last Chance for Chicago!

The train is leaving and it's headed for Chicago. I hope you will be on it because Chicago is a wonderful city with so much to do and see that you'll need a month! However, this is your last chance to donate an award for the Chicago Convention Show. All awards received by February 28, 2001 will be published in the souvenir booklet and be presented at the Friday night banquet. All awards received after that date will be held over for the 2002 convention show.

Please take the time to send a check for yourself or your affiliate to honor the exhibitors who have brought their best to show. Make your checks payable in U.S. Funds to: AVSA Convention Fund.

Mail them to:

**Mrs. Linda L. Golubski**

*AVSA Awards Chairman*

1416 N.W. A Street

Blue Springs, MO 64015

816-229-2051 after 6:00 P.M. CST

golubski@kc.net

Thank you for all the generous awards you have donated to help make the Chicago 2001 show a great success.

# Showcase

## *Ballerini Tremblay*

*Exhibited by: Louise Boucher*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Rob's Pal Paul*

*Exhibited by: Beverly Williams*

*Hybridized by: R. Robinson*

*Miniature*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



*Seedling LL-99*  
Exhibited by: *Greta Durand*

*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



*Streptocarpus*  
*purple hybrid*  
Exhibited by: *Louise boucher*

*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

# Shows and Judges



**Bill Foster**  
*Shows and Judges Committee*  
3610 Gray Drive  
Mesquite, TX 75150  
*email:bpfooster@airmail.net*

You will find the schedule for "Chicago" in the special insert in this issue of the African Violet Magazine. You will also find a list of the awards that have been received and assigned thus far. You will be able to compare the two and choose your entries accordingly. Please note that the new "Robinson Collection" has been added to the Amateur Horticulture Division. A nice award, given by Dr. Ralph and Olive Ma Robinson will be given for the best and second best collection of registered Robinson cultivars.

There has also been a new class added to the Commercial Division called "Commercial Showcase". A special committee of commercial members, along with Pat Richards, Commercial Sales and Exhibits Chairperson, came up with this class in an effort to create more interest among the commercial members. This class will be on a trial basis, at least for this first year.

Pat Sutton, our schedule approver, mentioned to me that some of the schedules still show "Artistic Plantings" or "Artistic Designs". When she suggests changes, some ask the question, "When were these changes made?" In the 80's a special committee was assigned to make revisions to the HANDBOOK. The revision that was published in 1986, dropped Artistic Plantings. Dish gardens, bottle gardens, terrariums, along with the addition of natural gardens were listed under "Container Gardens". Artistic Plant Arrangements became "Interpretive Plant Arrangements". The former "Artistic Plant Arrangements" required the use of growing

plants or plants "with the appearance of growing" along with the blooming African violet plant. It was often difficult to distinguish between dish gardens and Artistic Plant Arrangements, thus "Interpretive Plant Arrangements" came to be. The only difference between "Interpretive Plant Arrangements" and "Interpretive Flower Arrangements" is that one used a blooming African violet plant, removed from the pot, and the other uses fresh-cut African violet blossoms. The same line material may be used for both.

Be sure to send in your application to judge or clerk by the deadline. We usually do not receive enough applications for clerks and have to recruit more. Clerks are selected from AVSA members and student, advanced, senior, and master judges, so if you are any of these and would like to clerk, just send in the application.

Designers, be sure to look over the Design Division and send your requests in early. These classes usually fill quickly and you don't want to miss out! We will visit again in March.

**Addition to Handbook:** Page 83: please add at the end of the paragraph under "Proof of three blue ribbons".  
**Exception:** Many shows now use the AVSA Entries Program which generates a check out sheet for each exhibitor, listing all awards earned by each entry. This sheet, if signed by the show or judges chairman, may be used in lieu of the method listed above.

## FUTURE AVSA CONVENTIONS

**Chicago, IL – May 27 - June 3, 2001**

**Greater Washington, DC Area – May 19-26, 2002**

**Baton Rouge, LA – April 20-27, 2003**

# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

January Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Mon. 5:14 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
2 Tue.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd 5:31 pm
3 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
4 Thu. 1:57 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
5 Fri.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
6 Sat. 6:44 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
7 Sun.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
8 Mon. 8:09 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
9 Tue.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd 5:24 pm
10 Wed. 7:44 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
11 Thu.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
12 Fri. 7:26 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
13 Sat.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
14 Sun. 9:05 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
15 Mon.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
16 Tue. 2:02 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th 7:35 am
17 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
18 Thu. 10:35 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
19 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
20 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
21 Sun. 9:57 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
22 Mon.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
23 Tue. 10:43 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
24 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st 8:07 am
25 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
26 Fri. 11:39 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
27 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
28 Sun. 11:35 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
29 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
30 Tue.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
31 Wed. 9:21 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st

February Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Thu.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd 9:02 am
2 Fri. 3:56 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
3 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
4 Sun. 7:00 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
5 Mon.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
6 Tue. 7:21 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
7 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
8 Thu. 6:35 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd 2:12 am
9 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
10 Sat. 6:46 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
11 Sun.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
12 Mon. 9:51 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
13 Tue.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
14 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th 10:23 pm
15 Thu. 5:02 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
16 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
17 Sat. 3:59 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
18 Sun.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
19 Mon.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
20 Tue. 4:53 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
21 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
22 Thu. 5:45 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
23 Fri.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st 5:21 am
24 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
25 Sun. 5:20 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
26 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
27 Tue. 3:06 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
28 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 2001 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 28, 30), ISBN 1-56718-953-9



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Ellie Gardner*

*3rd Best in Show*

*2000 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Bev Promersberger*

*Hybridized by: P. Harris*

*Standard Trailer*



# The Five Violeteers

by Felicia Wdowiak (aka "The Cheerleader")

"This is the opportunity we have been waiting for!", sang one member of our club, "a Judging School only three hours away! We all have to go!" And thus began the journey of The Senior Judge, the Prissy Princess, the Cheerleader, the Master Grower, and the Quiet One, or as I like to say, The Five Violeteers.

I had to decide if I really wanted to take that plunge, going from growing for fun and occasionally showing to actually being qualified to judge the beloved violets that we so enjoyed growing. I decided, (with the help of my fellow club members), to go for it. I did not even have my Official AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges yet!

We had several weeks to study before the actual test day. We also had a basic outline of the general exam topics that had been provided. The Senior Judge in our club helped by providing us with some study tips, lots of cheering and support! I planned a routine course of study and set to task.

This would be the first time I took the exam and if I passed I would be a Student Judge. In order to take the exam the first time, a primary qualification is to have won three blue ribbons with African violets which you entered in a show. The categories of AVSA judges are Student, Advanced, Senior and Master. Each category has its own set of rules you must pass to advance from one level to another. You can read about them in your AVSA Handbook beginning on page 82. The Prissy Princess also had never taken the exam; she studied every day for hours and hours and hours. I knew with absolute certainty that she would pass the exam and answer every question

right! The Senior Judge, The Master Grower and The Quiet One had all taken the exam before and were already Judges. By taking another exam, they were increasing their knowledge and moving up the pathway to becoming Master Judges.

We arrived at our destination and that evening had a lovely dinner together, studied together and painted our toes lucky purple...we were ready for the next morning! The day of Judging School finally arrived! Upon arrival at the testing site old friends greeted each other and new friends were made. All the nervousness and anxiety began to disappear when our instructor went over a quick review of the exam. I thought to myself, "I do know this after all!" After our lunch break it was time for the test and off we went.

Beginning the journey of becoming a Judge is exciting and truly adds a whole new dimension to the way I grow and look at my plants. Each day when I pass through my Violet-Room-that-used-to-be-a-dining-room to groom and admire my plants, I do look and care for them differently knowing the standards and details required to win those ribbons! There is so much other valuable information that I also learned. By becoming a Judge I am supporting my favorite thing (VIOLETS!) and the organization that is devoted to furthering my favorite things, AVSA.

I encourage everyone to become a Judge! I encourage Master Judges to offer more Judging Schools. The more people there are to spread the knowledge of violets, and the more people to join our Society, then the more Violeteers there will be in the world!



## LEAVES MARKED AFTER REPOTTING

by Marilyn Jones

I am continually repotting minis nearly all through the year, except for the really cold winter months, as I have so many and they really respond to a 'prune' and fresh mix about every four months. I noticed last year after the repotting process that some leaves became quite marked and blotchy. I remembered hearing somewhere that it was a good idea to let newly repotted plants sit for several hours before watering. I previously sat them straight into tepid water as soon as they were repotted. Last year I changed this procedure, leaving the plants for at least 5 hours after repotting, even overnight and then watering with tepid water with very satisfactory results. There is enough moisture in my mix to hold the pruned plant while its little 'cuts' heal.

Neither do I use any fertilizer straight away but wait until

about the third watering and then start using quarter strength building up gradually to half strength. I'm reminded of the tip of using hot water to dampen soil. I have also done this for sometime and feel it helps. I work with a two litre ice-cream container of dry mix. Into another small container I put several drops of cloudy ammonia (to repel fungus gnats) and two drops of a detergent (acts as a spreader) then fill it with hot water. I tip this over the soil, replace the lid and shake the whole thing up for half a minute or so. My soil is then ready for use.

*From the Newsletter of the  
Early Morn AV Group, Australia and New Zealand*

# Registration Report



**Iris Keating**  
149 Loretto Court  
Claremont, CA 91711

## Hortense Pittman – Celina, Texas

\***Rocket Trail** (8878) 8/7/00 (H. Pittman) Single-semidouble purple. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature trailer**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Pat Hancock – West Chester, OH

\***Buckeye Celebration** (8879) 8/10/00 (P. Hancock) Semidouble light purple star/dark purple and cranberry fantasy, cranberry ruffled edge. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Cherry Freckles** (8880) 8/10/00 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pink pansy/cranberry-wine fantasy, cranberry ruffled edge. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. **Standard**

\***Buckeye Constellation** (8881) 8/10/00 (P. Hancock) Semidouble light purple ruffled star/dark purple and raspberry fantasy, thin raspberry edge. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Cornucopia** (8882) 8/10/00 (P. Hancock) Semidouble peach-pink star/darker peach center, cranberry ruffled edge. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Country Gal** (8883) 8/10/00 (P. Hancock) Semidouble light fuchsia large ruffled pansy/variable lavender-purple fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Dogwood Spring** (8884) 8/10/00 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pink two-tone large ruffled star, fluted tips. **Variiegated** black-green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Dresden China** (8885) 8/10/00 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pale peach-pink ruffled star. **Variiegated** black-green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Nell Ransone – Tavares, FL

\***Nel's Grand Dame** (8886) 8/12/00 (N. Ransone) Single light pink sticktite ruffled star/darker center. **Variiegated** medium green and white, spooned, quilted/red back. **Standard**

\***Nel's Whirley Bird** (8887) 8/12/00 (N. Ransone) Single chimera medium purple large ruffled star/white stripe. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain, pointed, quilted. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Ruth Bann – Fridley, MN

\***Rebel's Astro Spinner** (8888) 8/28/00 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble chimera pink large frilled star/fuchsia stripe, fantasy; wide white edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Barbara** (8889) 8/28/00 (R. Bann) Double pink two-tone pansy/rose-tipped top petals. **Variiegated** dark green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Beauty** (8890) 8/28/00 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large ruffled pansy/wide crimson splatter edge. **Variiegated** dark green and beige, plain, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Charmin' Pink** (8891) 8/28/00 (R. Bann) Semidouble pink two-tone ruffled pansy/rose shading. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Large**

\***Rebel's Cucumber Kool** (8892) 8/28/00 (R. Bann) Semidouble lavender two-tone pansy/purple frilled edge. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Kyle Reese** (8893) 8/28/00 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble dark blue pansy/white ruffled edge. **Variiegated** light green and ivory, pointed, glossy, serrated. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Pink Echoes** (8894) 8/28/00 (R. Bann) Semidouble pink two-tone large frilled pansy. **Variiegated** dark green and beige, pointed, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**

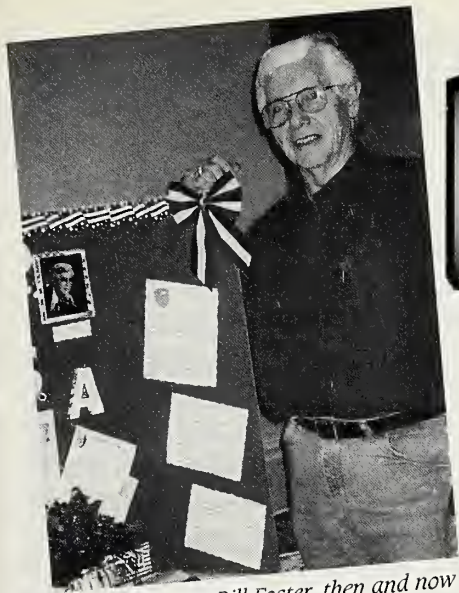
## REGISTRATION CHANGE

At the hybridizer's request, the name of Grape Festival (8863) has been changed to: **Okie** Grape Festival (8863) (J. Cochran)

## Master List Supplement 2000 Correction

The following cultivars were properly registered in 1997 and should not have been included in the Nov/Dec 2000 AVML Supplement: **Buckeye Beguiling**, **Buckeye Bellringer**, **Buckeye Blithe** (~~Blythe~~) **Spirit**, **Buckeye Bridesmaid**, **Buckeye Bubblegum**.

# Members



*AVSA President Bill Foster, then and now*



*Ray and Hortense Pittman*



*Jacquie Eisenhut*



*Ken Froboese with his winning plants  
Lone Star 2000 Convention*



*Shirley Sanders*



*Sam McKenna, Carolee Carter, Thelma Walther and Charmion Woolfe*



*Geneva Stagg*

# GROWING SPECIES AFRICAN VIOLETS

by Leonie Chirgwin

Growing species African violets is similar to growing the hybrids - similar but not the same.

Species need warmth, light, food, water and potting mix just as the hybrids. But they can tolerate less warmth, making them ideal to grow on window sills. Some of the species need quite cool nights before they will come into flower. Species do well and flower successfully on window sills, showing that they do not require the intensity of light or the hours of light that some hybrids grown under fluorescent lights demand.

Species require water and fertilizer in the same regime as hybrids. But I find they grow more successfully in a lighter mix than I use for hybrids. Maybe it's because the plants are less sturdy or stocky as hybrids. I add extra perlite to the club mix for the species. Before I did this, I lost quite a few species plants to crown rot even though the plants were wick watered.

Because of their frail appearance compared with hybrids, most species never progress into being large plants, so do not over-pot.

The greatest and most contentious difference between hybrids and species is grooming. Of course faded or dead flowers, bare flower stalks and old, marked or baby leaves are all neatly removed. Also the aim is to have a healthy, fresh lush green plant with numerous fresh flowers all over the plant.

But - and it is a big but - the judging manuals say that the species plants should be allowed to grow according to their natural habits.

There are no further explanations or guidelines. Now, because the species African violets have various growth habits, it is left to the grower to present a species plant at a

show as he/she feels best fits "according to their natural habit", and it is then up to the judge to decide subjectively which plant he/she likes best.

Some species growers groom their plants the same way as hybrids. They remove all side shoots, use training aids to arrange the foliage symmetrically and remove any trailing pieces with bare areas. Others just tidy the plants up a little - removing large side-shoots but leaving smaller ones, so that the plant has an overall balanced look such as what we aim for in bushy-type hybrid trailers. Other growers only remove dead or faded flowers, bare flower stalks and old or marked leaves but otherwise leave the symmetry or lack of it to the plant to decide.

Propagation of species is either by vegetative methods (leaf, tips, crown cutting or division of multi-crowned plant) or by growing from seed.

Some people are attracted to the history of the topic in which they have an interest; therefore it is a natural part of the hobby to grow the first plants. Some people are sincerely "green" in their attitudes to everything in their lives and grow Species because they are officially in danger of extinction in the wild. Some people like to have a "complete set" of whatever they collect and it is possible to have all the African violet species available. Maybe the best people truly enjoy and appreciate the beauty of these simple blue or purple flowers on the lush green foliage.

*From the Newsletter of the Early Morn Group,  
Australia and New Zealand*

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Donations received August 1, 2000 - September 30, 2000

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Drive • St. Charles, MO 63304

Bergen Co. AVS, Hackensack, NJ . . . . .	\$25.00	Howard Terry, Hagarville, AR . . . . .	\$5.00
Valley AVS, Harlengen, Texas . . . . .	20.00	Carol Worsley, Pittsburgh, PA . . . . .	1.00
Ohio State AVS, Columbus, OH . . . . .	100.00	Wilman Wolverton, Grain Valley, MO . . . . .	5.00
Pikes Peak AVS, Colorado Springs, CO . . . . .	506.00	Joanne Baker-Pruner, Pasadena, MD . . . . .	10.00
<i>(Club disbanded)</i>		Carrol Smith, Oak Park, IL . . . . .	20.00
Old Dominion AVS of Northern, VA . . . . .	25.00	<i>(In honor of Dr. Penny L. Smith-Kerker)</i>	
Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX . . . . .	20.00	Eloise Thompson, Bowling Green, KY . . . . .	5.00
Luwan Murphy-Visocky, Hortonville, WI . . . . .	2.00	Shirley McKenna, Redwood City, CA . . . . .	14.00
AVS of Morris County, Lafayette, NJ . . . . .	10.00	The Unpredictable's AVS, Kansas City, MO . . . . .	10.00
Margaret Condit, Locus Grove, OK . . . . .	5.00	Sarah Opie, Callington, Cornwall, England . . . . .	5.00
Late Bloomers AVS, Monroe, WI . . . . .	15.00	1st AVS of Arlington, TX . . . . .	857.00
Betsy Branson, Flourtown, PA . . . . .	5.00	<i>(To be applied to new A/C System at AVSA Office)</i>	
Patricia Harms, Evanston, IL . . . . .	10.00		
AVS of Greater Kansas City, Independence, MO . . . . .	10.00		
		<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1685.00</b>



# AVSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



We are proud to announce the guidelines of the AVSA College Scholarship, available for the third year.

- Applicants should be enrolled in a 4 year undergraduate program or in a graduate program in Ornamental Horticulture, Floriculture, or an equivalent program.
- Applicants should have completed 24 semester or quarter hour credits by completion of the fall 2000 semester, with a minimum "B" grade average.

The award is \$1,000, which may be used for tuition, books or fees.

This is a one-time award with the opportunity to reapply in subsequent years, and is funded by the Boyce Edens Research Fund.

Applications may be downloaded from AVSA's web site, *avsa.org*, or may be ordered from the AVSA Office - AVSA Scholarship Application, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

All completed applications should be mailed to:

Dr. Charles Ramser

2413 Martin Street • Wichita Falls, TX 76308

## Looking for Perfect Foliage

by Cheryl Salatino

Some growers are able to get perfect foliage without marring while others can't seem to produce a plant without spots or marks on the leaves.

This is a common problem that most of us New England growers experience, especially with our extreme changes in climate. The spots on the foliage are due to a broad range of conditions:

- Cold drafts or cold water on the foliage or root system.

To produce healthier looking foliage, be careful to avoid cold drafts from windows and doors. During the colder months try to insulate the areas that may affect your plants. I often place my hand on the surface where my plants are located. If it feels cold or drafty, I know the plant will suffer the consequences. Because many of us grow on window sills as well as light stands, it is important to be cognizant of conditions in all locations. I've cut up an old white mattress pad to place under the plants on the window sill. It blocks the drafts and keeps the plants warmer during the winter months.

Use tepid water when watering plants and warm water whenever washing plants. The water temperature should not vary more than 10 degrees from the plant's temperature. If water happens to spill on foliage, use a tissue to pat it dry. I pat the foliage dry after washing as well. Be sure to avoid placing a wet plant back in a cold or drafty location.

- Stress, if the plant is allowed to dry out.

Each plant has different watering requirements. While the majority of varieties may have similar needs, there are always a few that require special attention. Visit your growing area regularly. The seasons will change things, sometimes dramatically. Monitor the conditions in the room (is it dry, humid, warm, cool, etc.). The conditions will affect your watering

schedule, as well as the requirements for specific plants.

We are all aware of the perils of over watering. But drying out will stress the plant. Try to produce consistent moisture conditions for your plants. For those extremely thirsty varieties, consider wick watering. Remember, a change in culture will reflect on the foliage.

- Foliage burn from direct sunlight.

African violets require plenty of indirect light. But there are times when their locations receive some direct sunlight. Be careful not to place a wet or damp plant in the sun. Even a limited exposure can cause sunburn spots on the foliage.

Also, during the cooler months, you may not realize that morning dewdrops can form on the foliage. This happens when daytime and evening temperatures vary significantly (more than 10 degrees). You may experience sunburn if growing in windows exposed to early direct sunlight.

- Potting down a long neck.

Potting down a long neck is sometimes unavoidable. Unfortunately, it does cause stress in the plant which often produces foliage marring and loss of the lower row of leaves. Keep on top of your repotting efforts and you will avoid taking radical action.

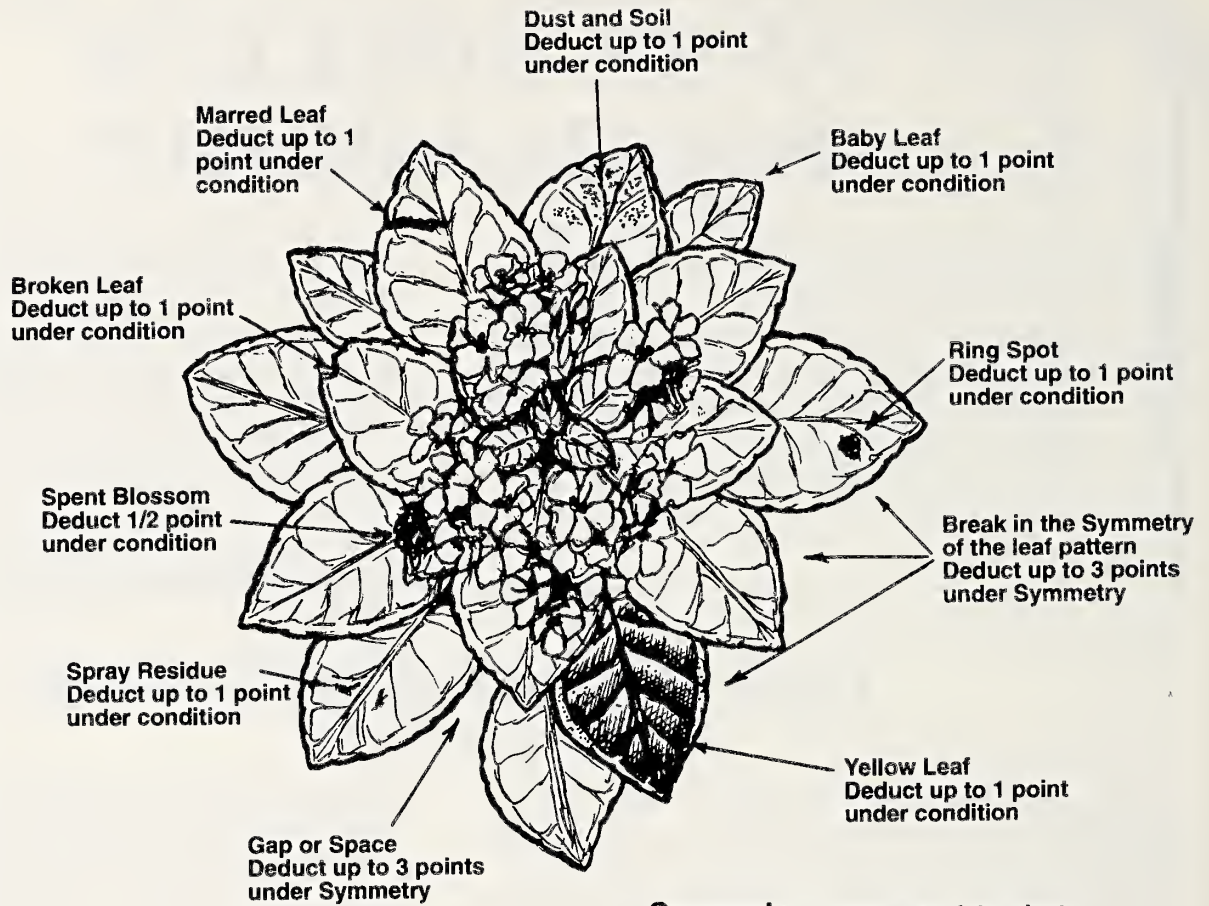
- Fertilizer salts that have built up on the pot edge.

Fertilizer salts often build up on the edges of pots. This is especially true when plants are consistently bottom watered. To avoid this build up, once a month run plain water through the plant from the top. Do this for a couple of minutes to wash out the salts. Also, faithfully repot every six months and clean your pots well.

*From "Ye Bay Stater", publication of the Bay State AVS*

# JUDGING THE SHOW PLANT

Compiled by Bill Foster and Mary Ann Corrigan



**Symmetry** - the shape of the plant  
**Condition** - cultural aspect of the  
plant at the time it is judged



Plant not centered in pot  
Deduct up to 3 points  
under condition



Neck  
Deduct up to  
3 points  
under condition



Over potted  
Deduct up to 3 points  
under condition



Under potted  
Deduct up to 3 points  
under condition

# In Memory



## FAY CHADWICK

Fay Chadwick, Willow Grove, PA, passed away on October, 2000. A twenty five year member of the AVS of Lower Bucks County, Fay was the club's first Treasurer and first AVSA Life Member. Fay was an "always there" member and her dedication to the club will be long remembered.

South Coast AVS, California, must recover from a loss of three key members in 2000. Their dedication was an inspiration to us all.



## HILDA CARREIRO

Hilda's pre-judging luncheon for those who judged South Coast's shows was always a treat. Hilda's hospitality and her homemade breads will be missed.



## ROSALIND HANCOCK

South Coast's activities and meetings were expertly publicized by Rosalind Hancock through her creative advertising posters. As a volunteer at the South Coast Botanical Gardens our club's activities there were in capable hands.



## MARILEE BEAM

Marilee Beam's name is synonymous with South Coast African violet shows. She won each award offered, from Best in Show and Best AVSA Collection to Sweepstakes for the most blue ribbons. One section of Marilee's home was her "violarium".

## Coming Events



### February 10 & 11 - CALIFORNIA

Foothill AVS Show/Sale  
Westfield Shoppingtown  
West Covina, CA  
Feb 10 - 10am - 8pm  
Feb 11 - 11am - 7pm  
Info: Chris Hedberg  
(626) 797 - 7525

### February 10 & 11 - GEORGIA

AVC of Greater Atlanta  
Atlanta Botanical Gardens  
1345 Piedmont Ave  
Atlanta, GA  
Feb 10 - noon - 5pm  
Feb 11 - 9am - 4pm  
Info: Kathy Spissman  
(770) 939 - 5289  
(770) 913 - 5551

### February 10 - ARIZONA

Desert Sun AVS Show/Sale  
Christown Mall  
19th Ave and Bethany Home Rd  
Phoenix, AZ  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
"How to Grow Seminar" at 11am  
Info: (623) 972 - 6895  
(480) 922 - 0959

### February 24 & 25 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale  
Tulsa Garden Center  
2435 South Peoria  
Tulsa, OK  
Feb 24 - 10am - 4pm  
Feb 25 - noon - 4pm  
Info: Rose Howlett  
(918) 627 - 7395

### March 2 & 3 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale  
Beardall Center  
800 Delaney Street  
Orlando, FL  
Mar 2 - noon - 4pm  
Mar 3 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Evelyn Briggs  
email <evbriggs@magicnet.net>

### March 2 - 4 - FLORIDA

Violet Patch of South Florida  
Coral Ridge Mall  
Oakland Park Blvd & Federal Hwy  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Info: Lia Hemphill  
(954) 749 - 0781

### March 3 & 4 - ARIZONA

Tucson AVS  
El Con Mall  
3601 E. Broadway Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ  
Mar 3 - 9am - 9pm  
Mar 4 - 9am - 5pm

### March 10 & 11 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVS Show/Sale  
Houston Arboretum Nature Center  
4501 Woodway Drive  
(in Memorial Park)  
Houston, TX  
Mar 10 - 10am - 5pm  
Mar 11 - noon - 4pm  
Info: Meredith Hall  
email <MHALLAVSA@aol.com>

# 2001 AVSA CONVENTION Awards

## Chicago, Illinois

### Society Awards – Amateur Division

Best African Violet in Show	\$50.00 & Tri-color Rosette
2nd Best African Violet in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best African Violet in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Trailer	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Semiminiature	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Miniature	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Species	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Vintage Violet	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Other Gesneriad	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	\$50.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Horticulture	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Standard Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette
Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette

### Society Awards – Design Division Amateur or Commercial

Best Design in Show	\$50.00 & Tri-color Rosette
2nd Best Design in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best Design in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Design	\$50.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Design	\$25.00 & Rosette

### Society Awards – Commercial Display Tables

Best Commercial Display Table	\$125.00 & Blue Rosette
2nd Best Commercial Display Table	\$100.00 & Red Rosette
3rd Best Commercial Display Table	\$75.00 & White Rosette
4th Best Commercial Display Table	\$50.00 & Honorable Mention Rosette
Best African Violet on Display Tables	\$50.00 & Rosette

### Society Awards – Commercial Specimen Plants

Best African Violet in Show	\$50.00 & Rosette
2nd Best African Violet in Show	\$35.00 & Rosette
3rd Best African Violet in Show	\$25.00 & Rosette
Sweepstakes in Specimen Plants	\$50.00 & Rosette
Best Other Gesneriad	\$25.00 & Rosette
Best Standard Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Standard Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette
Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$50.00 & Gold Rosette
2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection	\$25.00 & Purple Rosette

### Society Awards - Commercial Display Tables and Specimen Plants

Best New Cultivar	\$75.00, Blue Rosette and Plaque
2nd Best New Cultivar	\$50.00 & Red Rosette
3rd Best New Cultivar	\$25.00 & White Rosette

### Specified Awards - Design Division

Sweepstakes in Design	\$50.00	Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
Best Underwater Design	\$10.00	Tampa AV Society
Best Container Garden	\$10.00	Tampa AV Society

### Specified Awards - Commercial Specimen Division

Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best Comm. Display Table	\$200.00	Illinois AV Society
2nd Best Comm. Display Table	\$100.00	Illinois AV Society
3rd Best Comm. Display Table	\$50.00	Illinois AV Society
Best Standard Gr. Fol. Edged	\$25.00 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses



### Tinari Greenhouses Membership Award

A special award of \$50.00, donated by Tinari Greenhouses, will be presented at the 2001 Chicago Convention to the individual, club or affiliate obtaining the most new members during 2000. To be eligible for the award, send a complete list of names and addresses of the new members to Linda L. Golubski, AVSA Awards Chairman, 1416 N.W. A Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015, by January 31, 2001.



**Specified Awards - Amateur Division**

Best Holtkamp Collection	\$300.00 Rosette & Coin	Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$200.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection	\$100.00 & Rosette	Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best Robinson Collection	\$100.00	The Violet Barn
2nd Best Robinson Collection	\$50.00	The Violet Barn
Best African Violet in Show	Silver	Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Best Standard	\$25.00	Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Best Standard	\$25.00	Alpha AV Society
Best Semiminiature	\$25.00	Mid America AV Society
Best Miniature	\$10.00	Tampa AV Society
Best Trailer	\$25.00	Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Best Trailer	\$10.00	Tampa AV Society
Best Standard Gr. Fol. Edged	\$25.00 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Best Semimini Gr. Fol. Edged	\$25.00 & Rosette	Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Best Species	\$50.00	Cape Cod Violetry
Best Species	Rosette	AV Society of Western New York
Best Gesneriad	\$25.00	Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall
Most Best In Class for Other Gesneriads Only	Plaque	Dale Martens
Best Bustle Leaf, Wasp Blossom or Vintage Violet	\$50.00	Belisle's Violet House
Best Girl Foliage	\$25.00	David Harris
Best Standard Fantasy	\$20.00	Ray Verrier
Best Var. Std. Single Crown	\$10.00	Tampa AV Society
Sweepstakes in Horticulture	\$30.00	Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council

**Specified Awards - Amateur Division**

Buckeye Calico	Gift Certificate	Pat's Patch
Everdina	\$15.00	Hans & Everdina Inpjin
Foster Trail	\$25.00	Hortense & Ray Pittman
Honey Blue Angel	\$10.00	Barbara Goodsell
Mickey Mouse	\$15.00	Hans & Everdina Inpjin
Okie Easter Bunny	\$10.00	Davis Harris
Optimara Little Amethyst	\$10.00	Amethyst AV Club
Perk Up	\$10.00	Barbara Goodsell
Rob's Boogie Woogie	\$10.00 & Rosette	Rob's Mini-O-Lets
Rebel's Splatter Kake	\$25.00	Ruth Bann

**Other Awards - Amateur Division**

<b>\$200.00</b> Donated by Joe & Janice Bruns	<b>\$150.00</b> Donated by Illinois AV Society	<b>\$25.00</b> Donated by Glenview/Northshore AV Society <i>in Memory of Earl Snyder</i> Joan Halford	Tristate AV Council Ruth Wheeler Unpredictable AV Society
<b>\$100.00</b> Donated by Cedar Valley AV Club Lone Star AV Council Missouri Valley AV Council Ohio State AV Society	<b>\$75.00</b> Donated by Bill & Paula Foster	<b>\$20.00</b> Donated by AV Club of Greater Kansas City Nancy Amelung Jim & Linda Golubski	Oval Office Violets and Lunch Thousand Oaks AV Society Valley AV Society
<b>\$50.00</b> Donated by George & Anna Jean Landgren Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs	<b>\$30.00</b> Donated by AV Society of Minnesota The Violet Patch of South Florida	<b>\$15.00</b> Donated by Meredith Hall Richmond AV Society	Martha Turner Union County Chapter AV Society
<b>\$25.00</b> Donated by Aca's Violet Tree Carol Allegretti The AV Council of Southern California AV Society of Rochester Central Texas Judges Council Delta Gesneriad and AV Society The First AV Society of Dallas First Austin AV Society First Nighter AV Society Gateway AV Club	Kathy Lahti Lakes Area Violet Growers Milwaukee AV Society North Texas AV Judges Council Jim & Linda Owens Janet Reimer Rocky Mountain AV Council St. Louis AV Judges Council Spring Branch AV Club	<b>\$10.00</b> Donated by AV Society of Lower Bucks County Cross Town AV Club Katy Trail AV Club	Magic Knight AV Society West County AV Club
		<b>Other Awards - Design Division</b> <b>\$25.00</b> Donated by Gateway AV Club	<b>\$10.00</b> Donated by Amethyst AV Club
		<b>Other Awards - Commercial Division</b> <b>\$25.00</b> donated by New York State AV Society, Inc. Pat Richards	

# Discovering *Streptocarpus*

by Ralph Robinson

Originally presented at the 1998 AVSA Convention Show in Sacramento, California.

## Why we love "streps": (and why you can too)

1. *They are tough.* Our experience has been that people who have had little luck with African violets can successfully grow streps. They are a great flowering houseplant for people without "green thumbs" – which is true for many of the customers who come to our shop.

2. *They do equally well under natural and artificial light.* We grow under both, and they don't seem to care. We place them in the *worst* areas of the greenhouse, where we wouldn't think of putting violets. They can do well in almost any window of the house, making them great for windowsill gardeners.

3. *Ease of grooming.* Since they grow multicrowned, there's no need to remove suckers. Have a discolored leaf, or the plant's too big? Just trim it to any shape or size with scissors.

4. *Flowering potential.* Unlike violets that usually only produce one bloom stalk per leaf axil, streps will produce 6-10 blooms stalks in succession from each leaf. A mature plant with lots of healthy leaves can produce lots of bloom.

5. *Ease of propagation.* A 2" length of leaf, rooted in a 2 1/4" pot, can produce 20 to 60 plantlets, far more than a single violet leaf.

6. *Fewer pest problems.* They are susceptible to the same pests as are violets – mites, mealybugs, thrips, and the like. Mealy bug is the most likely problem but, from our experience, they are less likely to attract mites and thrips.

7. *They are spectacular.* There are few things more spectacular than a mature plant in full bloom (and they mature quickly). Most visitors to our shop come with the intention of buying violets. Many leave with a strep – and at least as many of our return customers are strep buyers.

## How to grow *Streptocarpus*: (at least how we do it)

To propagate, cut a length of leaf, then remove the center vein (or rib). Place the two remaining halves, or sides of the leaf, center (or vein) side down into the rooting mix. It will look just like "two slices of bread in a toaster". Younger, more heavily veined leaves will produce more plantlets. Unlike violet plantlets, which produce pairs of leaves, each *leaf* that appears from a rooted strep cutting is a plant – you needn't wait for pairs of leaves to appear. Plant each of these into its own 2" pot.

The plantlet will produce its first bloom in 1-3 months, depending upon variety and conditions. At this point in time, we pot the plant into a 3" pot, where it should continue to grow and bloom. Unless it is a small or compact growing variety, most streps will then need repotting into a 5" pot in another 6-10 weeks. Shallow (azalea) pots are best. Except for the very largest growing varieties, this is the largest pot necessary. About every 5-6 months, repot the plant, dividing it if needed, removing some of the old soil and rootball, and adding fresh soil.

## Some *Streptocarpus* problems:

Generally speaking, streps are harder to kill than are violets, being more tolerant of neglect. This is especially true of the better modern hybrids. There are, however, some potential problems you may encounter.

1. *Species and many older hybrids.* It is true that these can be intolerant of warm temperatures. A prolonged period of temperatures much above 80 degrees F can be the beginning of the end for some of the species.

2. *Unifoliate and/or "annual" species.* Some of the species are "unifoliate", meaning that they produce only one mature leaf. Though not necessarily difficult, these are not recommended for novices, i.e. if the leaf dies, the plant dies. Many other species are "annuals" in that they will bloom, set seed, and then expire. These are best kept growing by continually sowing seed and/or rooting leaves.

3. *Overwatering and/or too dense soil mix.* This is really the only way one can kill most modern *Streptocarpus* hybrids, and is the most common problem of novice growers. Streps almost always will recover from lack of water, even when almost totally limp, but can be killed by continual overwatering. For this same reason, a lighter soil mix is always preferred over a heavy one.

4. *"Browned or yellowed" leaf tips or margins.* This can be caused by many kinds of stress, but the most common causes are infrequent or improper repotting and/or lack of grooming. Sometimes that leaf is yellow simply because it's old and should be removed! These symptoms may also appear if the strep is very rootbound.

5. *Crowded and/or deformed center growth.* Streps are very fast, vigorous growers, and need to be divided and repotted into fresh soil at least every 6 months. When very rootbound, especially in very old soil, center growth may show these symptoms. In extreme cases, it can be mistaken for a mite infestation.

6. *Lack of bloom.* This is *rarely* a problem for us – we have had some plants that have been in bloom (or about to) every day of the year for four and five years running. If it does stop blooming, and culture (i.e. feeding, light, etc.) is good, it may be because there is too much "old" growth. Each leaf will produce 6-10 bloom stalks but, after that, will stop producing more buds. Unless there are new, healthy leaves being produced, blooming will eventually cease. Dividing and repotting, giving the plant a fresh start, usually solves this problem.

#### Some suggestions:

Here are a few, simple "rules of thumb" in growing streps that should increase your chances for success.

1. *Use very light soil mixes.* Especially true if you wick-water or otherwise plant to keep your plants constantly moist. If wicking, we would suggest using a mix of at least 50% perlite. It's also a good idea to let the reservoir go dry occasionally before refilling (this goes for violets, too). Keeping too-dense soil, too wet, is the most common problem growers have. Keep those roots happy!

2. *Use a balanced fertilizer.* "Bloom boosting", or high phosphorus, fertilizers are not necessary for good blooming. If you have healthy roots and leaves, blooms will come. Streps are very vigorous growers and need to be fed regularly and adequately.

3. *Regular grooming and pruning.* Don't be afraid to remove old leaves, especially if they've already produced a number of bloom stalks. Also remove leaves that seem to be "competing" for the same space, or getting in each other's way. Remember, also, that leaves can be trimmed with virtually no effect on blooming – we've had pots of stubble" in heavy bloom!

4. *Regular repotting.* If a strep has healthy roots, it's happy. If it doesn't, it won't be. Proper pot size, and fresh soil, are needed for new, healthy, root development. Neglect here is the second most common problem. Be sure to water sparingly until new roots have begun grow into the added soil.

5. *Don't overcrowd.* This goes for violets, too. Don't create a "jungle like" environment. Treat them like weeds they will grow and look like weeds.

#### Future possibilities: (what we look for in seedlings)

What we, as hybridizers, are looking for are qualities that don't already exist, or need perfecting, and those that make the plant easy to grow. As commercial sellers, we also want a plant that will be marketable (what people will buy), propagates and grows quickly, transports well (for shipping), and is unique to us (as opposed to other sellers). Here are some of our current goals in our breeding program:

1. Plants that are tolerant of neglect and adverse growing conditions.

2. Small, compact growers. So that they can fit on a windowsill, and more can be fit onto a light garden shelf. Glossy leaves, sometimes with dark and/or red-backing, growing in a flat (not upright) manner, preferably in a rounded (even rosette) form.

3. Long lasting blooms that are stick-tite and will hold up to mailing, transportation to shows, and handling. Double, or triple, blossoms are preferred for this reason. So that plants can easily fit onto light stand shelves, short, stiff bloom stalks, with five or more blooms per stem are desirable.

4. Unusual colors, like fantasies, multicolors, and edges. The possible colors, and combination of colors, are nearly limitless. Unusual shapes and textures, such as frilled or velvety blooms.

Many of these have already been achieved, by us and other hybridizers, to a degree. The future is exciting!

# Propagating Chimeras

by Cheryl Salatino

The usual method of leaf propagation does not work with chimeras. The plantlets will not produce plants true to the striped blossom you seek. Instead, you can try two alternatives: encourage suckers or reproduce from a blossom stem cutting. Either way, this is a slow process that does not guarantee that an identical plantlet will be produced.

## a. Encourage suckers from a "mother" plant.

Let's start with a warning...this is not for the faint of heart.

Pinch out the crown of the plant, leaving at least one row of leaves behind to ensure survival of the mother plant. Repot the pinched crown as you would any plucked sucker. The mother plant will now be encouraged to produce multiple suckers. Care for the pinched-out crown as you would any other sucker. Place the mother plant back onto the plant stand and watch for baby plantlets to emerge (6-8 weeks or more). If too many start to grow, pinch some out to allow the others to form healthy suckers. Once the suckers are large enough (bottom leaves are approximately the size of a nickel), pot them up. If you scrape away the scar tissue that has formed in the crown, you can encourage another group of suckers to form. And the cycle goes on...

Of course, you can also try to encourage suckers on your single crown varieties just as you would on non-chimera plants. Usually a little neglect sparks a reaction. Often when a plant is stressed by lack of water it will fight back by sending out suckers. Be careful that you do not lose the mother by trying too hard to encourage propagation through neglect.

Remember, some varieties can revert back to a solid colored blossom if allowed to dry out too often.

## b. Blossom stem cutting.

According to the experts, this method works, but takes time. It's certainly less risky than other methods.

Cut the blossom stem (peduncle) about 1 inch below the two tiny leaves that have formed below the cluster of blossoms. Some of us don't really ever take notice of these little leaves. But if you look carefully, you should find some. Choose a fresh blossom stem with reasonable sized leaves on the stem, the larger those leaves, the better chance of success. Remember, these are not foliage-sized leaves, but very tiny leaves at the base of the blossom cluster. Trim the blossoms off of their stems (pedicels) leaving approximately one third of the pedicel on the stem. Dip the bottom of the peduncle in some rooting powder.

Place the powdered peduncle, up to the small leaves, into a small pot of moistened light potting mix. In order to ensure consistent moisture, put the pot into a sealable plastic bag. Be careful not to bury the tiny leaves in the soil mix. Over time, plantlets will appear on either side of the two small exposed leaves.

Once the plantlets are approximately one and a half inches tall, they are ready to be cut away from the peduncle. Root the new plantlets as you would any new baby plant or sucker.

*From "Ye Bay Stater" publication of the Bay State AVS*



## A New Violet Friend

by Pat Crowley • Daytona Beach, FL

In mid-October my phone rang and this very pert voice identified herself as "Kari, from Colorado". She was visiting in Daytona Beach, and before leaving she wanted to know if there were any "violet places" in the area - she just couldn't return to Colorado without buying a plant or two in Florida! I explained that we had no nurseries in the Daytona area; however, if time allowed, she'd be more than welcome to stop by my house and see my collection. She liked the idea, and we made plans for her to visit my home in about an hour or two.

At the time, I was in the midst of repotting, and had planted all my excess leaves and suckers, which I give away when I give talks to garden clubs in the area. So, while I was waiting

for Kari to arrive, I prepared a box/flat full of rooted leaves and suckers for her to take home. When she arrived, we had a lovely visit, she admired my plants, and we "talked violets" for quite some time! She and her sister are hoping to start a violet club in their town in Colorado, and she's busily studying to be a judge. She's a most enthusiastic violet fan!

When I gave Kari the flat of "babies" she was thrilled! She had none of the plants I gave her, and was really looking forward to introducing them to her circle of friends. I have since heard from her, and she reported that only two leaves didn't survive, but all the rest are doing well.

It was a pleasure meeting her, and making a new violet friend. Incidentally, she found me through the AVSA web site.

# Yellowing Outer Leaves

by Bridgitte McKnight

There are at least three reasons that come to mind regarding sickly-looking outer leaves:

1. Old age: No matter how well you treat your plant, the outside leaves eventually become sickly and die. Cure: Cut them off. It won't hurt the plant, even when it is flowering, and there are new ones growing out from the center all the time.
2. Nitrogen deficiency: Nitrogen is a very mobile element and if there is not enough to go around, the center gets it and the outer leaves are the first ones to turn yellow. Cure: Use more of your present fertilizer or switch to one with a higher percentage of Nitrogen.
3. Soil Mealybugs: You may see them floating in your plant's water reservoir, or when you take the rootball out of the pot, you may see them crawling around very slowly. Cure: A) Drench with Knoxout or Endosulfan (recommended by Dr. Charles Cole). B) Cut off the crown at the soil line and/or set down to root one or two leaves from the middle row after swishing them for five minutes in a 1/4 cup of bleach to one quart of water. I have used this procedure and it has worked.

From "Ye Bay Stater", publication of the Bay State AVS

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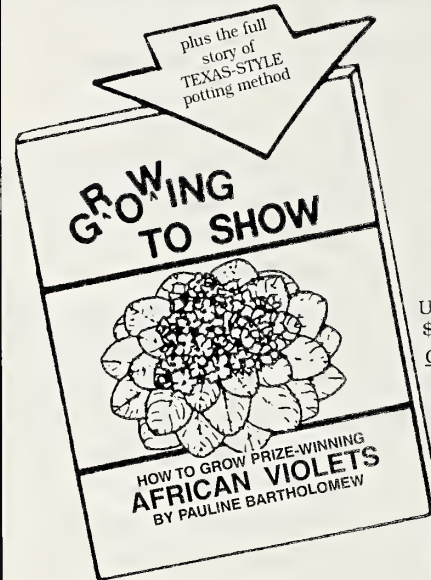
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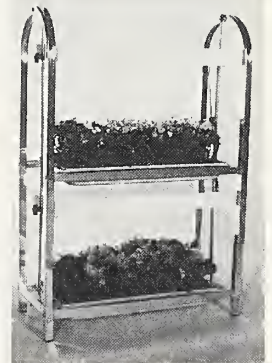
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32 oz	3-1/4"	6"	7"	6.00	14.00	27.00	53.00	250.00

Lids or containers only - 1/2 listed price

## PLASTIC LABELS

3" White, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green Blue, Lavender, Pink	100	500	1000
4" White, Green, Blue, Lavender, Pink, Red, Yellow	1.00	4.75	7.00
5" White, Lavender	1.25	5.75	10.00
4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
	2.00	9.00	17.00

## PERMANENT TRAYS - Light Green - No Holes

4" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1	6	12
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	.90	5.10	9.75
8" x 8" x 2-1/2"	1.40	8.00	15.00
8" x 12" x 2-1/2"	1.50	8.50	16.20
11" x 22" x 2-3/4" Lt. Green or Beige	4.75	27.00	51.00

## CLEAR DOMES

11" x 22" trays \$2.25 ea. Dome and Tray combo \$6.50 each.

## Elisa's African Violet Rings

Mini (6")	1	6	12	25	50
9"	.90	4.75	8.75	18.00	31.50
13"	1.00	5.00	9.50	20.00	36.00
	1.25	6.50	12.00	21.00	38.00

## FREDETTE'S ALLEGRO Plant Tonic

Excellent for starting leaves and small plants.  
Use 3 tsp. per gal. water. 4 oz. bottle  
Each \$3.15, 3 for \$9.00, 6 for \$17.00, 12 for \$32.40

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## SWIFT'S "MOIST-RITE" PLANTER

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East of Mississippi - \$4.50; West of Mississippi - \$5.00;  
West of Rockies - \$5.50; All Others - Actual Cost  
Mass. residents include 5% Sales Tax  
Please include STREET or ROAD, Zip Code and  
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## DYNA-GRO FERTILIZERS

Formula	Type	Size / Price		
		1/2 pt.	1 pt.	1 qt.
7-9-5	Plant Food	\$4.75	\$7.50	\$11.50
3-12-6	Bloom	4.75	7.75	12.00
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	4.75		10.50
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	4.75		9.50
Concentrate	K-L-N	10.00		
Neen Oil		11.00		
Dolomite Limestone				2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal		20 oz.		40 oz.
No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium	1.85		3.50
		4 qts.	8 qts.	16 qts.
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	1.75	3.00	5.25
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	3.00	5.25
Canadian Peat Moss		\$1.75	3.00	\$5.25
TROY Capillary watering mat - a full 4 feet wide				
\$2.40 per running yard - whole yard lengths				

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32 oz. - \$10.95  
1 gal. - \$32.00

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1 oz. - \$4.25  
2 oz. - \$6.00  
4 oz. - \$9.25

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## OYAMA PLANTERS

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African Violets and Gesneriads

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Our own hybrids. All are spectacular, constant, and heavy bloomers. They are extremely easy to grow and bloom, even in windows. Care is identical to violets. Unless noted otherwise, most grow in 4-5" pots when mature.

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**BRISTOL'S PARTY GIRL.** This is sure to be one of our best sellers. Very unusual deep medium blue blooms with heavy splashes of pink fantasy! A must for every collection

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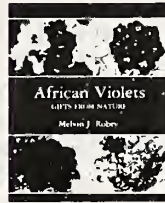
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# African Violet

*The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

March • April 2001

Volume 54

Number 2



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**SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Patricia Sutton, 1707 S. 77 E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74112. E-mail sutpa01@worldnet.att.net

**AVSA OFFICE:** Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@earthlink.net

**BEST VARIETIES:** HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

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**ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS:** Send to Editor.

**Please Note: Deadlines** - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

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**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. AVMads@avsa.org

**ADVERTISING DEADLINES:** Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

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# African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

March • April

Volume 54

Number 2

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**Rob's Ice Ripples**  
**Optimara Little Crow**  
**Optimara Little Pueblo**

Exhibited by:  
**Meredith Hall**  
2000 AVSA National Show  
Photo Credit:  
**Winston J. Goretsky**



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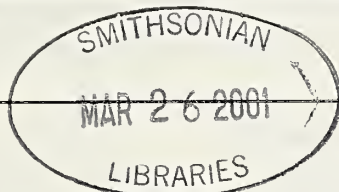
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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

# President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

Spring is gradually arriving, at least in this part of Texas. However, we can never be sure until April. Several years ago, Alpha AVS was having their show in early March at Bigtown Mall in the Dallas area and they had to take their plants home in the snow! It is at times like these when the old saying, "if you don't like Texas weather, wait a minute!" proves to be true.



January 9 and 10 were very special days. Paula and I and Hortense and Ray Pittman, joined by Jenny Daugereau and Ruth Rumsey, were special guests at the Spindletop Centennial Celebration in Beaumont, Texas.

Spindletop, for those who might not know, was the first oil gusher to "blow in" and change the world. It happened on January 10, 1901. How did that get African violet people invitations, you ask? Well, the AVSA office IS in Beaumont, and Evelyn Lord, who was mayor of Beaumont during the "First Day Issue Celebration" for the African violet stamp, is an AVSA member.

Evelyn was also in charge of the Spindletop celebration. Furthermore, an African violet named 'Spindletop', hybridized by Hortense Pittman, was the centerpiece for all of the tables at the luncheon. Because of all this, Evelyn was kind enough to make us a part of the celebration.

'Spindletop', the plant, is now at home at the AVSA office. You see, Jenny Daugereau, who always wins the centerpieces at the AVSA banquets, won again!

The re-enactment of the "blow in" was so real. One could actually feel that they were there 100 years ago. The earth rumbled and shook and the gusher blew in! Fortunately, water was used so we didn't get covered in "black gold".

You have had plenty of time to study and absorb the special convention pages in the January AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE. Doesn't Chicago sound great! I hope that a lot of you who had been thinking you would not attend this convention have now changed your minds. Keep working on your entries and send in those registrations!

I recently learned of the death of long time AVSA member and former Judge, Leonard King, husband of our dear Frances King. I am sure you all join me in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Frances.

Happy growing,

Bill Foster  
AVSA President

# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email rumsey@earthlink.net

We had a real treat when the **Fosters** and **Pittmans** came to Beaumont for the 100 year celebration of the Spindletop Gusher in January. Our former Mayor, **Evelyn Lord**, asked Hortense Pittman to hybridize an African violet for the celebration, and 'Spindletop' is a lovely plant.

Jenny and I were honored to accompany them to the banquet at which 'Spindletop' was introduced. Other plants were named in honor of this historic event, and were presented during the yearlong celebration of Spindletop, but only the African violet was honored with such a formal presentation. We were guests at the recreation of the gusher at the historical boomtown, Gladys City, which is a replica of the tiny town where oil was discovered 100 years ago. The speaker for this event, which drew visitors from all over the country, was **Former President George H.W. Bush**.

I took a lot of photos at the event and some of them are in this issue on page 40. Although it was overcast and cold on the day of the gusher reenactment, thousands of people turned out. We saw a lot of Secret Service agents and kept an eye on the helicopter that continually circled overhead.

If you are ever in this part of the country, please stop by and see us at the AVSA office. Visitors are always surprised at the beauty of this spacious building in the Oaks Historic District of Beaumont. It's a joy to work in such a lovely building.

This issue contains some very interesting articles that I'm sure you'll enjoy. My friend, **Linda Golubski** tells us how she accommodates hundreds of plants and grows them with success in "How does Thy Garden Grow?", on page 50.

**Don Giess** makes use of the many contacts he's made through African violet internet egroups, in his study, "In Search of the Perfect Soil". Don's contributors are from varying areas of the country, and as far away as Sweden and Japan.

**Connie Leifeste** makes "Growing From Seeds" an exciting prospect. Follow her step-by-step suggestions on page 16. From selecting a container, the best time to sow, light requirements, and transplanting the seedlings, this article will answer a lot of your questions.

If you haven't sent your registration for the Chicago convention, do so right away! This looks like a convention you won't want to miss!

## For Your Viewing Pleasure....

As a gift to the members of AVSA, Don Geiss of Fredric, MI, has begun a film project that should appeal to all African violet growers. To date, Don has taped interviews with Anne and Frank Tinari of Tinari Greenhouses, both past Presidents of AVSA, as well as Jim Eyerdom, grandson of Hugh Eyerdom and son of Dale Eyerdom, long-time owners of Granger's Gardens.

Don has plans to meet with and interview many other prominent figures in African violet history, and will make these tapes available to the membership of AVSA.

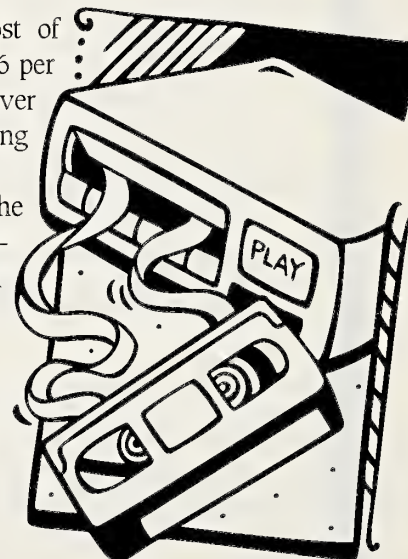
While Don wants to stress that these tapes are amateur productions, they have been viewed by several members who found them thoroughly enjoyable. There will be limited copies of these available through the AVSA Office, and **NOT** as a part of our extensive Library

program. Rental cost of the video tapes is \$6 per rental, enough to cover the cost of packaging and shipping.

When ordering the tapes, use the following identification numbers:

**100 G "Tinari Interview"**

**101 G "Eyerdom Interview"**





# Registration Report



**Iris Keating**  
149 Loretto Court  
Claremont, CA 91711

## Denis Croteau – Longueuil, Quebec, Canada

\***Robert Mayer** (8895) 11/20/00 (D. Croteau) Semidouble medium pink large star/raspberry edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. **Large** \*\*\*\*\*

## Jeff Smith – Muncie, IN

\***Genetic Carmine** (8896) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double dusky coral-red pansy. **Mosaic variegated** green, pink and beige, plain/red back. **Standard**

\***Genetic Crème** (8897) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double white to blush pansy. **Mosaic variegated** green, white and cream, plain. **Standard**

\***Genetic Snowflake** (8898) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double white pansy. **Mosaic variegated** green, pink and beige, plain. **Standard**

\***Tomorrow's Blue Nova** (8899) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double light blue star/raspberry ruffled edge. Light green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

\***Tomorrow's Friend** (8900) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double light pink ruffled pansy/variable yellow-tinged eye. Dark green, plain, hairy, ruffled/red back. **Standard**

\***Tomorrow's Indigo** (8901) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double dark blue pansy/raspberry band, thin white edge. Light green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

\***Tomorrow's Pink Ice** (8902) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble light pink ruffled star/raspberry band, white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

\***Tomorrow's Scepter** (8903) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Single-semidouble dark purple-blue star/thin white ruffled edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Standard**

\***Tomorrow's Snowy Night** (8904) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double white ruffled star. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. **Standard**

\***Tomorrow's Sunbeam** (8905) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double white ruffled pansy/yellow streaks. Medium green, plain, hairy, ruffled. **Standard**

\***Tomorrow's Sunrise** (8906) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble blush ivory pansy/variable yellow eye; red netting on edge. Dark green, plain, serrated/red back. **Standard**

\***Tomorrow's Teaser** (8907) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double light blue star/thin raspberry ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

\***Yesterday's Child** (8908) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Double dark blue pansy. Medium green, ovate, quilted. **Standard trailer**

\***Yesterday's Garland** (8909) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Semidouble lavender-blue ruffled pansy/variable thin raspberry edge. Dark green, pointed, hairy/red back. **Semiminiature trailer**

\***Yesterday's Valentine** (8910) 11/24/00 (J. Smith) Double medium blue pansy. Dark green, heart-shaped, hairy/red back. **Standard trailer** \*\*\*\*\*

## Sylvia Harrison – Cato Ridge, South Africa

\***Silverglade Candies** (8911) 11/28/00 (S. Harrison) Semidouble-double pink/wide orchid speckled edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

\***Silverglade Cinders** (8912) 11/28/00 (S. Harrison) Semidouble-double dark orchid-pink frilled/white eye. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

\***Silverglade Dolls** (8913) 11/28/00 (S. Harrison) Single-semidouble white/orchid petal tips. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

\***Silverglade Jewels** (8914) 11/28/00 (S. Harrison) Semidouble white frilled/lilac two-tone tips. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

\***Silverglade Pennies** (8915) 11/28/00 (S. Harrison) Semidouble light pink frilled/bronze-green top petals. Dark green, plain, quilted, wavy/red back. **Standard** \*\*\*\*\*

## Club Violettes Longueuil – Longueuil, Quebec, Canada

\***Rouget** (8916) 11/28/00 (Club Violettes Longueuil/D. Croteau) Semidouble red large star/white edge. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Standard** \*\*\*\*\*

## Darryl Hoover – Fullerton, CA

\***Chicago Flair** (8917) 11/28/00 (D. Hoover) Semidouble pink ruffled pansy/darker eye, thin white edge. **Variegated** dark green and white, plain. **Standard** \*\*\*\*\*

## Bill Foster – Mesquite, TX

\***Colonel Ron** (8918) 11/30/00 (B. Foster) Semidouble red star. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**

\***Just Janice** (8919) 11/30/00 (B. Foster) Semidouble pink star/fuchsia fantasy on outer petals, thin green edge. **Variegated** dark green, pink and white, plain. **Standard**

\***Ozio** (8920) 11/30/00 (B. Foster) Double pink star/purple fantasy, fuchsia frilled edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

\***Texas Barb** (8921) 11/30/00 (B. Foster) Semidouble fuchsia-red star/variable green edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**

## NAME RESERVATIONS

### Sharon Holtzman – Newtown, OH

(Each of the following is preceded by the name Newtown)

\* Bam \* Bosca \* Emeril \* Fire Zone \* Heart Mender \* Intriga \* Itty Kitty \* James Peel \* Kickit Up \* Lady Navarre \* Michael Israel \* Moon Villa \* My Sharona \* Nixie \* Numen \* Quiet Resolve \* Restless Star \* Soaring Softly \* Showboater \* Stardate



**Kent and Joyce Stork**  
Fremont, Nebraska  
*e-mail: kents@tvsonline.net*

## CHANGE JUST ONE THING...

Recently, a violet grower showed us a violet that was in serious trouble. "I don't know what's wrong," she moaned. "Ever since I put them in the plastic pots, they have gone downhill." She had been growing her plants in clay pots previously. She had changed just one thing, but oh, what a difference it made!

Much of the art of growing African violets is in understanding how the pieces of the horticultural puzzle fit together. Change just one thing and you get a chain reaction. It is very easy to believe that you have a green thumb when everything is working. When it isn't working, it is very easy to believe that you are unable to grow violets. Success depends on understanding all of the elements that are affected by one modification.

### Key Elements in Growing

There are a number of key elements that greatly affect success in violet growing. Temperature, humidity, water, air, soil, nutrients, containers, and light all have an effect on plants, and may affect each other. What violet growers describe as perfect growing conditions is actually the perfect balance of conditions. The easiest method of growing for a violet beginner is to use a tried and true combination of these elements.

Here's an example of a combination of these elements with which growers have had success:

Temperature: 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit

Humidity: 50%

Water: unconditioned (not softened); pH of 6.8 to 7, in a self-watering system

Air: free of pollution

Soil: mix of equal parts sphagnum peat moss, perlite and vermiculite

Nutrients: 15-30-15 fertilizer at a rate of 1/4 teaspoon per gallon in water reservoir

Containers: shallow plastic pots (1/3 the plant diameter), with holes for drainage

Light: fluorescent light twelve hours a day, twelve inches above leaves

What if you have all of these growing elements but one? Is that pretty good? It could be, but unfortunately, one variation could change everything!

### Change the Temperature

Temperature is a crucial factor in plant growth. While violets will tolerate a range of temperatures from 60 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit, they really do best at 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Any change from this narrower range will affect African violets.

If the constant temperature is altered by five degrees cooler or warmer, a number of other elements may go out of balance. For example, humidity. Temperature controls the amount of moisture that the air can retain. The lower the temperature drops, the less moisture the air can hold - and relative humidity escalates. This may result in sweating (or condensation) on cool surfaces which translates into a perfect environment for fungus. On the other hand, air tends to be drier at warmer temperatures, resulting in flowers that fade faster and water reservoirs that evaporate and go dry more quickly.

At constant cooler temperatures (65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit), plants will grow more slowly, leaves will closely overlap, and blossom colors will tend to be more intense. That sounds good. However, in the process, soil bacteria processes nutrients less actively and violets may be more prone to toxic levels of ammonium nitrates in the soil. Urea-based fertilizers are best avoided at cooler temperatures (if all of the other elements of growing stay the same).

At higher constant temperatures (75 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit), a plant's metabolism increases. This often results in more rapid growth, sometimes causing long leaf stems (petioles) and more spaces between leaves, as well as lighter blossom colors. Higher temperatures increase transpiration, and violets will require more water. At these warmer temperatures, fertilizers are used more efficiently because soil bacteria is more active in breaking down nutrients.

Wide daily swings in temperature may result in disease problems. Humidity will fluctuate as temperatures change, making the control of fungus extremely difficult. Whenever possible, try to prevent wide temperature variations.

### **Change the Soil**

Using a soil mix different from our example can also upset the balance. Heavier, denser potting mixes will retain more water than the mix described above. This will result in a wetter medium with less air available to the delicate root structure. Heavier mixes (even including real dirt) might be used successfully by growers who tend to forget to water, or for those growing in clay pots. Lighter, fluffier mixes than our example above may not retain enough water, especially for those who live in regions with low relative humidity.

Some of the premixed violet potting mediums on the market may contain additives that surprise growers. Many contain wetting agents that cause the soil to absorb moisture more quickly for the first few months. As the wetting agent wears out, the soil absorbs water less easily.

Off-the-shelf potting mixes may also contain a charge of fertilizer. Manufacturers seem to assume that the grower will not be smart enough to add nutrients. If fertilizer is added to the water after using this charged mix, violets may show symptoms of burned leaf edges, or develop orange "crud" in the center crown.

It is possible to change the quality of the soil in our example just by packing it when repotting. Avoid the temptation to push down on the soil. Pushing on the soil presses air out, leaving less room for roots to grow. This can greatly slow the rate of growth above the soil. Violets in packed soil do not flourish.

### **Change the pH of the Water or Soil**

When water and/or soil pH varies from the neutral 6.8 to 7.0, the soil environment around the root ball becomes more acidic (below 7) or more alkaline (above 7). This greatly alters a violet's ability to absorb nutrients in a usable form. When pH

is far from neutral, essential nutrients will not get into the plant, no matter how much fertilizer is applied. Unfortunately, pH is not easy for a grower to control completely.

Soil pH can change as potting mix components age. Repotting at least yearly is wise to "freshen" the soil and return it to a more neutral pH. Repotting at least yearly is wise for other reasons as well.

Also, water pH has a great influence on the balance of pH achieved within a violet pot. This can be very difficult to monitor in areas where water supplies are constantly adjusted. Additives in the water can modify pH unpredictably.

When water pH is susceptible to change, a grower must pay attention! Fertilizers must be selected carefully. Urea-based fertilizers tend to cause more problems in acidic conditions. Soil conditioners can be applied to correct the problem, but these may not always be effective. Many growers have found that the best solution is to change their water source. Some have found that rain water or reverse-osmosis water remains more consistent in regard to pH.

### **Change the Light Source**

If you grow at the window instead of under fluorescent light, a number of the elements may be affected. The first thing a grower will notice is that petioles often grow longer on the side of the plant that is away from the light source. Perfectly symmetrical foliage is almost always the result of overhead artificial light.

Natural light often varies the air temperature. During the day, direct sunlight produces heat. At night, however, temperatures can cool significantly. These fluctuations alter humidity as well as the growth rate. Window-grown violets often have a slightly coarse look because of this.

Window light can be too bright. You may find that you need a fertilizer slightly higher in nitrogen to compensate for foliage bleaching which occurs as chlorophyll is depleted, when light is too bright.

Violets grown in windows are more likely to show seasonal variations. Those grown far north or south of the equator may suffer through the short days of winter, often not blooming well until days begin to lengthen. Similarly, in the long days of summer, they may have fewer blossoms because of heat stress.

### **It Goes On and On**

We could play with this theme forever. You get the message. Change just one thing, and you will inadvertently alter other key elements. One little change can put your growing into imbalance, and your violets will suffer.

These changes may occur very slowly over a long period of time. That can confuse even the best of growers. It can be hard to remember when the problem you are observing today was not a problem. What was the moment when everything began to shift? Was it after the last repotting? Was it after you changed to a new fertilizer? Did it happen after the city

announced a new water treatment program? The instigating change may have occurred months before a grower actually observes a difference in his African violets.

So what is our point? First, think! When your violets begin to change for the worse, it is easy to assume that disease or insects have invaded. Don't get out the chemicals until you are certain of that! Often, it is a simple change that occurred in your growing balance. If you can find that change, you may be able to correct the problem painlessly. More importantly, chemicals used to treat for pests can be hard on plants. An unnecessary application can aggravate the situation and make it even more difficult from which to recover.

Second, be sensitive to changes that are inevitable. You have to move to a new location. A product is no longer available. The city puts new additives in your water. Air becomes polluted. This stuff happens! Just being aware that it can affect your violets will help you cope more effectively.

Third, be prudent. Sometimes you want to try something new. Avoid changing more than one or two of the key elements listed earlier. Try to proceed through the possible side-effects of your change sensibly. Remember that chain reactions can occur. You can contain that chain reaction by

experimenting with one or two plants rather than your whole collection.

Finally, get advice from someone who is growing successfully in your area. The combination of elements that we listed above works well for us with the kind of heating, air conditioning, water, and climate that we have in Nebraska. You may have to use a different combination of elements in your situation. The easiest way to discover what works is to ask someone who has already succeeded.

### Remember the Violet Grower Who Changed Her Pots?

It was obvious to us why that grower we told you about had so much trouble after repotting her violets into plastic pots. She had been growing in clay pots and watering them twice a week. She had been using a very heavy soil, which can work in clay pots where moisture evaporates from the side of the pot. Once she changed to plastic, she needed to use a lighter soil that would allow air to circulate in the root system, and she didn't need to water as often. When she makes these changes, the balance should be restored. She'll be growing beautiful violets again soon.



# Some Chores For Spring

The beginning of the warm weather means that potting can begin in earnest! If you have been nervous about potting or putting down leaves during the cooler weather, you need put it off no longer! With the warmer temperatures and the lengthening days, the plants seem to know it is spring. You will notice an increase in the growth rate.

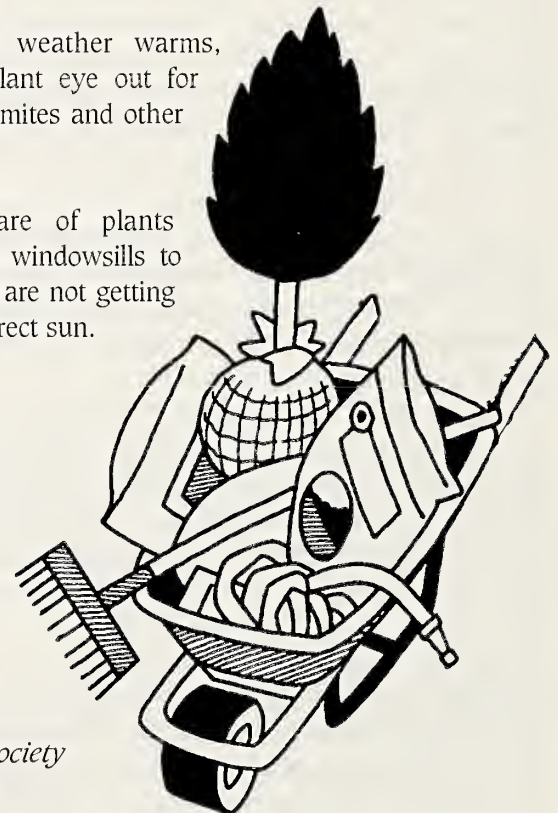
Some of the chores for spring are:

- Potting up young plantlets from leaves.
- Rejuvenating plants that have outgrown their pots and have necks.
- Putting down leaves of variegated violets.
- Giving high nitrogen fertilizer to violets that are showing too much variegation after the cool weather.
- Potting up gesneriad rhizomes such as *Achimenes*, *Kohleria* and *Eucodonia*.
- Taking cuttings of trailing gesneriads such as *Columnea* and *Nematanthus*.
- Potting up *Sinningia* tubers that are starting to send up new shoots.
- Planting seeds of violets or other gesneriads. Most gesneriads grow easily from seed.

As the weather warms, keep a vigilant eye out for caterpillars, mites and other pests.

Take care of plants growing on windowsills to ensure they are not getting too much direct sun.

From  
"African  
Violet  
News",  
Official  
Journal of  
the AV -  
Gesneriad Society  
of NSW, Inc.





**Dale Martens**  
2728 Masters Drive  
League City, Texas 77573  
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## Tips for Selling Gesneriads at Local Shows

During African violet or gesneriad club shows, how do you get the public to want to purchase your baby gesneriads? Most of the time, the public won't look twice at a small, non-blooming gesneriad on the sales tables. Face it, if you're selling the other gesneriads, particularly at an African violet show, you need to make an extra effort in order to sell your non-violets. Keep in mind that unless you have a mature plant in the club's show, or a sample blossom on display, the average person has no idea what your little gesneriad's blossoms will look like. At the AVSA conventions, Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, and Rob's Mini-O-Lets may have gesneriads such as *Streptocarpus* with a "Display Only" sign on them. The blooming plants help them sell the non-blooming plants.

What if your sales plant isn't in bloom and you don't have a mature plant to display? Then show a 5 x 7 photo of the plant in bloom. Mount it on a small poster or frame it. Display it conspicuously. One of the best photo displays was when Alma Lavine from the Quad Cities AVS showed photos of mature *Achimenes* and *Eucodonias* blooming profusely in hanging baskets. The photos were taken the previous summer and the following spring, and were on display in order to help sell the baby plants. My local copy store will take a photo and make multiples of it as a color copy for only one dollar. Note, the copies are not photographic copies, but colored copies on paper. Those machines are remarkable in their color accuracy. Recently, I got twenty small pictures of blossoms on one page. That's only five cents per picture, and cheap enough to tape a small photo on each of the pots or staple a photo on the baggies of plants, tubers, stolens, or rhizomes you'd like to sell.

Selling leaves or stolens of gesneriads? Another sales trick is to wrap the cut end with moist paper towel, and cover that with gold, pink or purple floral foil before placing it in a baggie. Floral foil is the aluminum foil paper that florists use to wrap the outside of a pot of flowers. That extra flash of color attracts the eye of the public! I was shocked to see buyers

flock to gold foil wrapped leaves as if those were better than all the others for sale.

Selling rhizomes and tubers? The public is usually skittish about growing rhizomes and tubers. How about selling them in a "kit". I recommend placing in a large sandwich baggie: 1) a small pot or Solo cup, 2) a nylon wick, 3) a packet of fertilizer, 4) a baggie of soil mix (or a sphagnum moss pellet), 5) a smaller baggie with a tuber or rhizome in it, and 6) growing instructions on a 3 x 5 card. Cost-wise, this is inexpensive, but time consuming. It will be successful, especially if you have a larger photo on display and/or a small photo stapled to the baggie.

Advantages of having an instruction sheet: It's amazing how receptive the public is to purchasing gesneriads if you have made a simple growing instruction sheet to give with each plant. At the bare minimum, tape a two inch by two inch abbreviated instruction sheet on a stick and place it in the pot along with the plant. You can staple an instruction sheet to a zip-lock baggie. For rhizomes or *Sinningia* tubers, as a minimum you should write: "Place 1 inch deep in soil. Always keep moist, but not wet. Fertilize: 1/8 tsp per gallon. 10-12 hours of light a day, no direct sun." Of course, it'd be better for the purchaser to receive more elaborate instructions, but do have *some* written instructions for them to follow. It'd be even better if you'd write your club's meeting day, time, and location on the instruction sheet.

Please consider this: If you saw a cutting of a plant you'd never seen before inside a zip-lock baggie with a photo of the blossom and growing instructions stapled on the outside of the baggie, wouldn't you be tempted to give that cutting a try?

A new book is available!

*Breeding Ornamental Plants* has been published by Timber Press. It includes chapters on hybridizing African violets by Dr. Jeff Smith and breeding gesneriads by Dr. Peter Shalit. A web site for ordering the book is: <http://timberpress.com>. I haven't gotten the book yet, but I'm looking forward to it.

# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
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An e-mail question received recently asked not only about the genetic inheritance of the red backing on African violet leaves, but also about the function of the pigment. Since African violets have been in cultivation for over 100 years, we tend to forget that their traits should have some sort of survival value in the wild plants. In the case of red leaf backing, this trait produces a red water-soluble pigment that is stored in the lower epidermis cells of the leaf. These cells do not have chloroplasts and cannot make food for the plant. However, the red pigment these cells contain reflects light that is traveling through the leaf, back into the interior of the leaf. The interior cells do have chloroplasts and can use the reflected light for additional energy in making food. In this manner, light that would have been lost to the leaf is still converted into food. Therefore, plants that live in very low light areas and have the red leaf pigment to reflect light would have a survival advantage.

The presence of the red backing trait will influence where different cultivars of African violets can be successfully grown. Plants with the trait are tolerant of lower light levels and can often be grown at the end of your lights or even on the floor next to the plant stand. Plants without the red backing will usually need higher light levels and will benefit from positions in the center of the light stands. Thus, a trait that has survival value for wild African violets can influence a cultivar's success in your collection.

**Q:** *How is the red backing of leaves inherited?*

**A:** This trait is a simple dominant. If one parent has red backed leaves, about 50 - 100% of the offspring should have the trait. This trait also shows some visible differences between plants that are homozygous dominant (two doses) and those that are heterozygous (single dose). The former plants tend to

have darker coloration and a more even distribution of the color over the leaf blade and veins. The heterozygous plants tend to have lighter red coloration which may be streaked or uneven in distribution in the leaf.

This trait may be more complicated than a simple dominant/recessive, as there is evidence that there may be separate genes for the red backing of the leaf veins, the leaf blade, and the leaf petiole. For example, I have seen plants with red blades, but the veins are green; as well as plants in which the blades are green and the veins are colored. These variations were observed in plants with mixed *Saintpaulia* species ancestry, suggesting that more than one form of the gene may exist in the wild plants, as compared to the cultivated ones.

**Q:** *Is mildew resistance a genetic trait? I have seen some cultivars on a tray that always seem to be covered with mildew, while others right next to them never seem to be bothered. What's going on?*

**A:** Based on your observations, environment alone does not seem to adequately explain why some plants mildew easily and others don't. Therefore, the differences must be genetic rather than cultural. How mildew resistance is inherited, however, is not well understood at this time.

Mildew is caused by a fungus that is able to grow and obtain nutrition from the cells on the surface of the leaf (or flower). I would suspect that the ability to resist mildew is due to the presence of some sort of inhibitory chemical in the leaf wax or epidermal cells. Usually, the ability to make a chemical compound depends on the presence of enzymes, which in turn are controlled by the plant's genes. The ability to have a working enzyme (or gene) is usually a genetic dominant trait. The failure to make the compound, because the enzyme is no longer functional, is a genetic recessive. If this model holds, then mildew resistance would be a genetic dominant trait with

mildew sensitivity a genetic recessive trait.

There may also be dose effects in the resistance. If the plant has only one working copy of the enzyme, perhaps only half as much of the resistance chemical will be placed in the leaves. The fungal spores may still be able to grow, especially if the environmental conditions are favorable. These plants may be able to resist mildew on most conditions, but become vulnerable when the conditions are changed to favor the fungus.

**Q:** *I've recently seen flowers that have color in the veins of the petals. How is this trait inherited?*

**A:** The trait for colored veins on an otherwise white or pale - colored flower is a highly variable trait whose expression often depends on the growing temperature. Although I have not seen data on this trait, most of the other flower traits are genetic dominants. I would expect that colored veins might be inherited the same way.

**Q:** *What is the latest news about the development of a good yellow violet?*

**A:** A recent article in the journal *Science* described the work of researchers who were studying the yellow pigments of snapdragons. The researchers ground up 32 kilograms of snapdragon buds to extract and identify the enzyme responsible for making aurone flavonoids, an important part of the yellow

color. The research team reported that through this study they have found the enzyme and the gene that codes for the enzyme.

Now that the yellow gene has been identified, it may be possible for scientists to insert the gene into African violet cells using genetic engineering technology. If the genes are inserted in the proper DNA location, the enzyme may be produced, resulting in yellow flowers. This technique may produce African violets that are truer in yellow color than those currently available.

**Q:** *Can you recommend a basic genetics book that explains the inheritance of traits in African violets?*

**A:** A new book that may be of help is "*Breeding Ornamental Plants*" recently published by Timber Press and edited by Dorothy and M. Brett Callaway. The first two chapters in the book discuss "Genetics and its Applications" and "Plant Breeding-Practical Matters". The remaining chapters are written by various specialists and each covers a different plant or plant group. Chapter 8 is on "Breeding African Violets" and was written by yours truly. This chapter consolidates information from many of my past columns. Chapter 9 is on "Breeding Gesneriads", the plant family to which African violets belong, and contains other insightful and useful genetic information. Each chapter has color photos of the plant being discussed, as well as a list of resources and plant societies.



## Affiliate Update

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*

P. O. Box 64

Clintwood, VA 24228

[promers22@hotmail.com](mailto:promers22@hotmail.com)

*Congratulations and welcome to the following new affiliates:*

African Violet Society of SW Florida

President - Lillian C. Scott

1917 SE 32nd Street

Cape Coral, FL 33904

[Lscott@ilinet.com](mailto:Lscott@ilinet.com)

Another club is forming in Florida. Do you live near Palm Beach, Jupiter or Tequesta, Florida? Contact:

Margie Geissler

18944 SE Arnold Drive

Tequesta, FL 33469

561-747-8705

E-mail [egeis33@earthlink.net](mailto:egeis33@earthlink.net)

If you haven't yet found a local club in your area, perhaps you would be interested in starting one yourself. We have a starter packet and advice that stays with you until you are established. You can request this packet or any other information by writing or e-mailing me at the addresses listed at the beginning of this column.

# Spring Potting

Beverley Donsworth

How lovely it is to feel the warmth of spring after such a cold, wet winter! New growth is bursting forth and the spring blossoms are a delight. This is the ideal time of the year to put down leaves, divide baby plants, and repot and rejuvenate older plants.

Propagation of African violets by leaf cutting is very easy to do. In selecting a leaf, do not take one from the outside of a plant, as it may be too old to produce baby plantlets. Instead, take one from the third row from the center where the growth is still vigorous and the leaf is healthy and mature. Make a clean cut on the leaf stem at an angle of 45° and about 1 to 1 1/2" in length. Some growers strike their leaves in water first and then pot them, but I always prefer to put them straight into African violet potting mix or a 50/50 perlite/vermiculite mix. I find polystyrene disposable cups very useful for this task.

First, cut the side out of the top half of the cup and make some holes in the base. Then, half-fill the cup with your chosen mix. The leaf can be inserted about 1 cm into the damp mix, and will rest against the side of the cup.

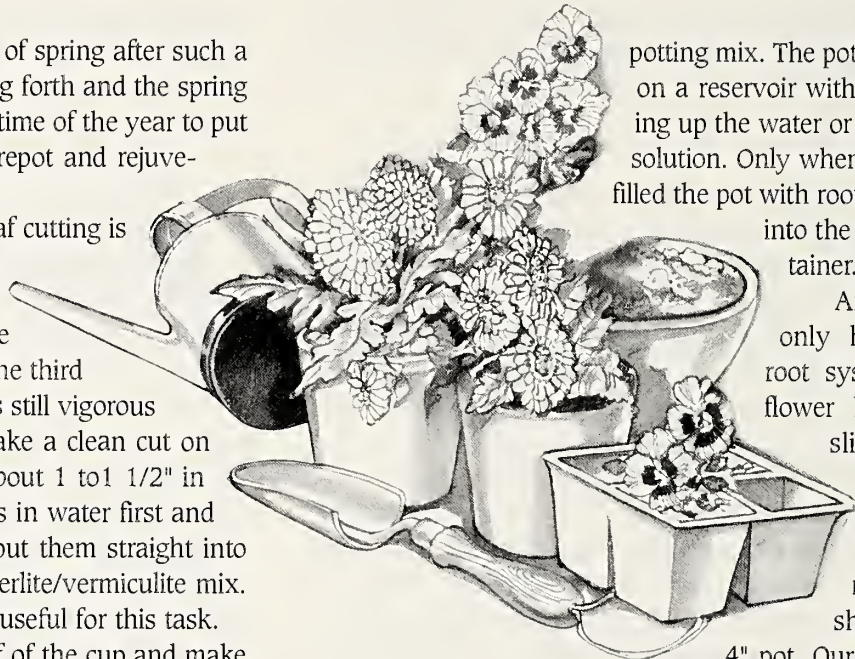
Be sure to label the cup with the correct name and the date so that growth can be monitored. It should take about one month to form roots and another month for the baby plants to appear.

Roots and plantlets form from the cut area and, if the leaf stem is planted too deeply, the plants will become spindly. The pot needs to be placed in a warm, bright spot for rapid growth. Some growers may dip the leaf stem in a hormone rooting powder, but I have always found that leaves strike well enough without it. Also, the pot can be enclosed in a plastic bag or container, forming a terrarium for a few weeks. Some may put a wick into the pot and put it on a reservoir.

After about three to four, I give the leaves some weak fertilizer with a high nitrogen content. Tiny plants should begin to appear at about two months, although some may take longer.

When they are about 2" high, they can be separated from the mother leaf and potted up individually into small pots. If the pot of baby plants is allowed to dry out for a few days, it will be easier to separate the plants by shaking some of the mix from the root ball. Small pots such as 2" or 2 1/2" are suitable for the small plants at this stage.

Wick watering is an easy way to grow African violets. A wick of synthetic material which will not rot (such as acrylic yarn, or strips of pantyhose) is inserted into the pot, the little plant added, and the pot topped up with your African violet



potting mix. The pot is then placed on a reservoir with the wick taking up the water or weak fertilizer solution. Only when the plant has filled the pot with roots is it repotted into the next size container.

African violets only have a small root system and will flower better if kept slightly root-bound. The final repotting of a mature plant should be into a

4" pot. Our plants should be repotted at least every year

into a clean pot with fresh potting mix. It is best done in the warmer weather, as it will be less stressful to the plant. After a year, peat-based potting mixes become more acidic and compacted and need to be replaced.

As the older outside leaves are removed, the plant will develop a "neck". Roots will be produced from this "neck" area if the scar tissue is removed by gently scraping with a blunt knife. Some of the roots can be cut off from the bottom and the old soil shaken out.

If the plant has been left to dry for a few days, it makes repotting easier and the leaves will be less brittle. The plant is then lowered into a clean pot with a new wick and fresh mix added, the lower leaves being level with the rim. By tapping the side of the pot gently, the mix will settle, leaving plenty of air spaces in the pot. Watering can now be done either gently from the top, or by immersing the pot in tepid water for half an hour. I usually put a repotted plant on a water only reservoir for about two weeks, especially if some of the roots have been cut off.

After having cleaned up the pot and the plant, do not forget to clean the leaves by gently brushing with a soft brush from the center outwards, to remove any dust and dirt. Then, you can just sit back and enjoy the new blooms that will be produced from a happy plant.

*"The African Violet", Official Journal of  
The AV Association of Australia, Inc.*





# Watering Your Violet

by Ina Beaver

African violets need a light, porous mix for their delicate root systems. This is why we add perlite and vermiculite for water retention. Feel the top of the soil if possible. If it's dry one quarter inch down, water. If the pot feels light when lifted, water.

If it's so dry that the leaves are limp, that's a no-no. Give it a 'sip' of water a couple of times on day one, then water well the following day. Set your plants in water for a while, then drain well.

Never fertilize a dry plant. The tiny air roots will die from even the weakest solution of fertilizer. An African violet's will to live is amazing. I had one in a dish garden, and I shoved it out of sight. Several months later, when I found it, there was a speck of green in the crown. I gently cut off the dead

leaves and most of the stem, keeping an eighth of an inch of stem plus the tiny crown. I put it in a dish of water for several hours before placing it in a tiny pot of barely moistened soil. I covered it with a baggie for a couple of weeks, and it actually grew to a lovely show plant a year later.

Overwatering will kill your violet. If this should happen, remove all roots and all leaves to a healthy crown and perhaps another row of leaves. Remove all the stem until it appears green and firm. Let it dry for an hour or so, and then place it in a small pot with fresh soil lightly moistened. Cover with a baggie, and watch it revive.

*From "Chatter", publication of the AVS of Canada*

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## Growing Skills Fair

**Ever wonder what some people do to their violets to get them looking so beautiful? Come to the *Growing Skills Fair* at the Chicago Convention Show and learn!**

See the displays demonstrating how to do basic tasks like watering and repotting. Ask expert teacher, **Don Geiss**, and his crew any question that you wish. He'll not only

talk, he'll show you the answer! You can even get tips from a booth manned by the Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society on how to grow "violet cousins"!

Look for the fair on Saturday morning, June 2, near the convention showroom. Demonstrations will be going continuously from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Everyone welcome! Free of charge!

“ *And the winners are ...* ”



**Mary Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**AFRICAN VIOLET COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, FL – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Picasso, Optimara Louisiana; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Optimara Little Aztec, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Sassy Sister, Optimara Little Blackfoot, **JoAnne Baker-Pruner**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Modesty; Best Semiminiature: Hector; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Kelly Patton**. Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Ezra Altamont', **Jo Anne Martinez**. Best Design: **Jean Marie Ross**. Design Sweepstakes, **Bonnie Schmidlkofer**.

**AVS OF MINNESOTA, MN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lyon's Blue Monday, Fredette's Risen Star, Lyon's Blushing Bride, **Terry Klemesrud**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Angel Babe, Timid Teen, Frosted Denim; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Standard: Rhapsodie Stephanie; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus hildebrandii*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kathy Lahti**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Rebel's Gingham Elf; Dean's Brandywine, **Ruth Bann**. Best Trailer: Rob's Wooloomooloo, **Carol Semrau**.

**CEDAR VALLEY AVC, IA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Mister Sun, Optimara Molokai; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Molokai, **Nancy Price**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Trailer: Linda Darnel, **Barbara Pershing**. Best Semiminiature: Little Pro; Best Miniature: Petite Blanche; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Susie', Catherine Thompson. Best Species: *Saintpaulia inter-*

*media*, Shirley Nelson. Best Design, **Jan Tyler-Blanchard**.

**LONESTAR AV COUNCIL, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Smooch Me, Marching Band; Best in Show/Best Standard: Marching Band, **Richard Nicholas**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Party Print, Barbara Ann, Pueblo, **Martha Turner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Bunny Blue, Dean's Arctic Frost, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Anne Nicholas**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese**. Best Trailer: Cajun Trail, **Marge Savage**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Phyllis Reuss**. Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea duclouxii*, **Shirley Sanders**. Best Design, **Susan Storey**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius**.

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**NUTMEG STATE AVS, CT – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard collection: Harbor Blue, Optimara Yellowstone, Moby Dick; Best in Show/Best Standard: Harbor Blue; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Ann Butler**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Sassy Sister, Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Miniature: TJ's Blueberry Muffin; Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Cheerio'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design

Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**. Best Design, **Nancy Hayes**.

**MID-ATLANTIC AVS, PA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fisherman's Paradise, Super Duper, Rhapsodie Clementine; Best Trailer: Fairy Fountains; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Felicia Wdowiak**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Macho Devil, Rob's Match Point, Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Ralph Robinson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Gleeful Elf, Optimara Little Diamond, Dean's Rosalie; Best Semiminiature: Thunder Surprise, **Shirley Sanders**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Splendiferous, **Betsy Branson**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Apollo', **Paul Sorano**. Best Design, **Olive Ma Robinson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Gary Gordon**.

**THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA –Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Harlequin, Apache Rainmaker, Melodie Kimi; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Shy Blue, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Cool Fruit; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Shy Blue; Best Standard: Smokey Silver; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carroll Gealy**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Leslie Cox**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Burde**.

**TRI STATE AV COUNCIL, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Mary, Picturesque, Splendiferous; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Shy Blue, Rob's Jee Jim, **Ron Ennis**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pink Playmate, Rob's Pink Puff, Irish Flirt; Best Standard: The Alps; Best Semiminiature: Pink Playmate; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Horticulture

Sweepstakes, **Bob Kurzynski**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Sweet Amy Sue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Edward Bradford**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Unpredictable Valley', Jill Fischer. Best Design, **Dale Jasaitis**. Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki**.

**VOLUNTEER STATE AV COUNCIL, TN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Painted Desert, Fantasy Maker, Raspberry Crisp; Best in Show/Best Standard: Smooch Me; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Sheen'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, Geneva Stagg. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie, **Brenda Brasfield**. Best Design, **Danny Tidwell**. Design Sweepstakes (tie), **Peggy Adamson** and **Danny Tidwell**.

**WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS, WI – Winners:** Best Standard Collection: Silent Prayer, Kev's Meteor Shower, Devil-may-care; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rebel's Ky-uh, **Bonnie Henell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Garnet Elf, Lela Marie; Taffeta Petticoats; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Monkeyshines, Rob's Antique Rose, Irish Flirt; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Monkeyshines, **Nancy Brown**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hallucination, Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Boogie Woogie, **Ebe Schreiber**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Betty Schreiber**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* *Punter #6*, **Bill Greider**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis*, **Mickey Eberle**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Arlene Garvens**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fay Skews**.

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Bill Lyons • 38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

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# Growing From Seeds

Compiled by Connie Leifeste

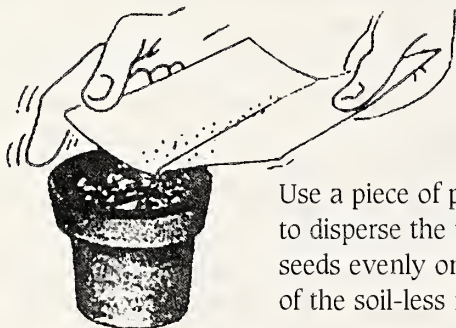
## Selecting a Container

Your first objective is to create a "miniature greenhouse" that will provide the warmth, humidity and nutrients necessary for optimum germination:

1. Many growers prefer to use a dark-colored 2-2 1/2" square pot.

2. A medium to small sized microwave container works equally well. It should have a black bottom and clear top, a small hole punched in the top for air, and a small hole in the bottom for wicking.

3. A plastic sundae cup with a hole punched in the lid is well-suited for growing miniature varieties. Micro-miniature sinningias (*Sinningia pusilla* and *Sinningia pusilla* 'White Sprite', *Boea hygroscofia*, *Streptocarpus pumillus*, and *Saintpaulia shumensis*) grown by this method seldom need to be transplanted to another container later. You should water sparingly with an eye dropper or mist. In no time, you will have a tiny, mature, blooming plant to enjoy.



Use a piece of paper to disperse the tiny seeds evenly on top of the soil-less mix.

The larger containers are "time savers" for those with busy schedules who never seem to get around to repotting regularly. As the plantlets grow, you can easily accommodate their increasing size by replacing the lid with a quart-size plastic bag with a hole punched in the top. Once the seeds have sprouted, remove the bag occasionally to allow fresh air to circulate. Immature plantlets can survive to about three to four inches in height with this method, as long as you are fertilize on a regular schedule and continue to permit fresh air into the container, periodically. These containers are suitable for germinating larger growing varieties, such as *Sinningia*, *Kohleria*, *Smithiantha*, the larger *Saintpaulia* species and hybrids.

## The "Uninvited Guest"

Dark-colored containers are natural deterrents for heavy blooms of green algae that arrive periodically via public water

supplies. If algae begins to grow on the surface of the potting media, remove it immediately. Even a small colony can devour nutrients very rapidly, preventing germination of the seeds.

## The Growing Media and Regulating the pH

You may opt to use your regular African violet potting mix. More recently, many growers are using New Zealand sphagnum moss pellets. This media is clean, sterile, easily traps air, and is less prone to pest infestations. Since it tends to be slightly acidic, it should be pH regulated for most gesneriads (some exceptions are noted below), and feel only slightly damp to the touch at sowing.

Pull a prepared wick through the hole in the bottom of the container. Add a thin layer of very loose moss. Sprinkle a few granules of Dolomite lime on this layer. Cover loosely with another thin layer of moss. Some growers prefer to add a very thin layer of crushed perlite or fine grade vermiculite over the top layer. This aids in spotting the first signs of germination. Allow the container to sit overnight. Sprinkle the seeds widely over the surface area. Place the cover or a plastic baggy over the container. Set it on capillary matting or a reservoir. Locate to a window or a plant stand.



The germinating seeds need a clear cover to provide humidity and to prevent the mix from drying out.

Do not allow the moss to dry out. It will revert to the hard, dry pellet state with little to no possibility of providing the proper environment for germinating seeds.

## Answers To My Questions

Germinating gesneriads will require the same pH as a mature plant of the same variety. Read, talk to other growers and learn about the variety you are growing from seeds. Much individuality exists from one species to another. Do not hesitate to apply new methods on an experimental basis. In no time, you will have a "growing from seeds system" that conforms well with your particular growing environment.

Paul Kroll relates: "In reading *The Miracle Houseplants*, I've gleaned the following information. Some gesneriads prefer soil mix without lime added: *Columnnea*, *Aeschynanthus* and

*Nematanthus*. So far (three years) it is working!" (Used by permission, Gesneriad News, Volume 2, number 1, page 15) Based on this information, you might elect to sow seeds of these varieties straight onto the moss or a potting mix that is not pH regulated.

The AV Connection, Gesneriphiles List, and the AGGS Message Board on the internet are excellent locations where you can post questions and receive prompt responses from more experienced growers about the specific varieties of seeds you are growing.

### Water Quality

Just as local water quality can effect mature plants, it can effect germination. Keep informed regarding the quality in your area. Local water systems annually print a free water quality report that conforms to EPA guidelines for public distribution. Contact your local water department to receive a copy of this report.

### Record Keeping

Record keeping provides a valuable source of information about a particular variety. Date of sowing can be written on a separate label and placed in the pot. When the seeds sprout, the date of germination is easily added to the reverse side of the label. Some growers keep a seed journal which includes a complete record from sowing, to transplanting, to blooming that is often complete with photographs. No matter how you elect to keep records, do so. The information you collect is important, an excellent reference tool for you to use at a later date, or share with other growers.

### What Variety Should I Try First?

The following are recommendations of experienced growers taken from a Gesneriads List poll. The germination rates included are approximate and varied somewhat from grower to grower:

*Chirita* tamiana, ten to fourteen days

*Sinningia* speciosas, three to ten days

Small's dwarf mix

Park Seed Double Brocade

*Achimenes* admirabilis, fourteen days

*Chirita* micromusa, eight to fourteen days

*Achimenes* Tiny Red, ten to fourteen days

*Episcia Xanthia*, seven to ten days

*Saintpaulia* shumensis or *S. brevopilosa*,

fourteen to twenty days

*Sinningia* pusilla or *S. White Sprite*, fourteen days

*Sinningia* Orange "Zinger"\*, ten to fourteen days

\*A hybrid that grows true from seed.

### When to Sow

Fortunately, the growing season in Texas is a long one. Seeds of many gesneriads, such as *Sinningia*, *Kohleria*, *Achimenes*, *Episcia* and *Smithiantha* can be sown any time

during the year. With certain cool-loving varieties, like *Chirita*, some *Streptocarpus* and *Saintpaulia* species, *Gloxinia* and *Pearcea*, the germination rate improves greatly if you sow the seeds during fall to winter months. This allows young seedlings a "cool time" to become well established before very hot weather arrives.

### "Watched Pots" and Germination

Whoever said, "A watched pot never boils" was certainly correct when it comes to germinating seeds. Be patient! Do not hover! Perhaps soon you will have an interesting "growing from seeds" story to share like the ones that follow:

Carol Schreck recalls: "The fastest gesneriad I've grown from seed is *Gloxinia* purpurascens. Seeds were planted on August 3. Seedlings separated and put into 2 1/2" pots, two to a pot on November 4. Young plants (were) moved into individual 2 1/2" pots December 23. As of now (1/24/00), they are budding up and producing aerial rhizomes. Fuzzy red hairs on foliage add to their charm."

Contrarily, Dale Martens relates the story about her inter-genetic hybrid, xPhinastema 'California Dreaming' and how growing from seeds can require great patience. She waited six months for those seeds to germinate! Obviously, the seedlings were well worth the wait. Many growers have since enjoyed growing this small, very heavy blooming hybrid.

### Fertilization

The accepted regiment, 1/4 tsp. of "low to no urea" fertilizer per gallon water, or even less, is sufficient. Alternating among several brands of fertilizer will not harm immature seedlings. You may follow with an application of a very weak dilution (1/8 tsp per gallon water) of high Nitrogen fertilizer supplement, either applied by wicking or misting.

### Light Requirements

Southeast windowsills or the middle of the tubes on a light stand are adequate locations to start most varieties of seeds quickly. The seeds of some varieties with low light requirements as mature plants, like *Boea*, *Chirita*, *Pearcea*, and *Streptocarpus* species will germinate with as little as forty watts of light. If you have an old aquarium or reptile light, this is an adequate artificial light source for these and other low light varieties.

### Natural Selection

Let Mother Nature work for you. Now that the seedlings have begun to grow, allow the batch to thin themselves. You will end up with fewer, stronger, better adapted, healthier seedlings to transplant and enjoy later. Unless you are hybridizing and watching for a particular characteristic, you do not need to try to grow out every seedling that sprouts.

### Transplanting the Seedlings

Transplant the seedlings when each has reached 1 1/2-2

inches in height, two to a pot. Small plastic medicine measuring cups available at most commercial nurseries with holes punched in the bottom are inexpensive "space-savers" and require little potting media or moss. Support the seedlings with several toothpicks. The seedlings may be wicked and remain on capillary matting or reservoir. The root system will root very quickly. Once the plantlets are pot bound, repot them into larger pots.

Choose two or three seedlings that you want to grow out to maturity. Exhibit one in your club show. There is nothing more exciting than to be able to say, "I grew this plant from seeds!" Get those extra plants into bloom. They are excellent for club plant sales or member exchanges.

### Give That Seedling A Name

What if you grow out a nice African violet hybrid from seeds that you would like to show, but you did not hybridize the plant? Any hybrid that you grow from seed may be named

and exhibited by you. Give credit to the hybridizer, if known. A recent consensus among hybridizers is: if a hybrid is worth exhibiting, give it a name!: African violet shows have a class where these "new" seedlings may be entered. Who knows? Your seedling may receive a Best In Class! And, to think that you grew it from seed! Quite an accomplishment, most would say!

### Experiment First

When trying any new method of growing, experiment first. For example, you might choose to plant one-half the seeds in your regular potting media and the other half in New Zealand sphagnum moss to see which method works best for you.

*From the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter Illustrations from "African Violet and Gesneriad News"*



# Propagating Chimeras

by Cheryl Salatino

The usual method of leaf propagation does not work with chimeras. The plantlets will not produce plants true to the striped blossom you seek. Instead, you can try two alternatives: encourage suckers or reproduce from a blossom stem cutting. Either way, this is a slow process that does not guarantee an identical plantlet will be produced.

## 1. Encourage suckers from a "mother" plant.

Let's start with a warning - this is not for the faint of heart!

Pinch out the crown of the plant, leaving at least one row of leaves behind to ensure survival of the mother plant. Repot the pinched crown as you would any plucked sucker. The mother plant will now be encouraged to produce multiple suckers. Care for the pinched-out crown as you would any other sucker. Place the mother plant back onto the plant stand and watch for baby plantlets to emerge (6-8 weeks or more). If too many start to grow, pinch some out to allow the others to form healthy suckers. Once the suckers are large enough (bottom leaves are approximately the size of a nickel), pot them up. If you scrape away the scar tissue that has formed in the crown, you can encourage another group of suckers to form. The cycle goes on...

Of course, you can also try to encourage suckers on your single crown varieties, just as you would on non-chimera plants. Usually a little neglect sparks a reaction. Often, when a plant is stressed by lack of water, it will fight back by sending out suckers. Be careful that you do not lose the mother by trying too hard to encourage propagation through neglect.

Remember, some varieties can revert back to a solid colored blossom if allowed to dry out too often.

## 2. Blossom stem cutting.

According to the experts, this method works, but takes time. It's certainly less risky than other methods.

Cut the blossom stem (peduncle) about one inch below the two tiny leaves that have formed below the cluster of blossoms. Some of us don't really ever take notice of these little leaves, but if you look carefully, you should find some. Choose a fresh blossom stem with reasonable sized leaves on the stem; the larger those leaves the more chance of success. Remember, these are not foliage-sized leaves, but very tiny leaves at the base of the blossom cluster. Trim the blossoms off of their stems (pedicels), leaving approximately one third of the pedicel on the stem. Dip the bottom of the peduncle in some rooting powder.

Place the powdered peduncle, up to the small leaves, into a small pot of moistened light potting mix. In order to ensure consistent moisture, put the pot into a sealable plastic bag. Be careful not to bury the tiny leaves in the soil mix. Over time, plantlets will appear on either side of the two small exposed leaves.

Once the plantlets are approximately an inch and a half tall, they are ready to be cut away from the peduncle. Root the new plantlets as you would any new baby plant or sucker.

# On-going Applied African Violet Research

Larry W. Barnes  
Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist

## ***Evaluation of fungicidal control of powdery mildew in African violet.***

Seven fungicides are being evaluated for efficacy in control of powdery mildew in African violet. Treatments are as follows:

Pipron	½ pint/100 gal	7 day intervals	
Terraguard	4 oz/100 gal	14 day intervals	
Phyton 27	1.5 oz/10 gal	7 day intervals	
Triact	1%	7 day intervals	
Heritage	4 oz/100 gal	7 day intervals	neem oil based fungicide
Zero Tol	1%	7 day intervals	hydrogen peroxide based
Systhane	4 oz/100 gal	10 day intervals	

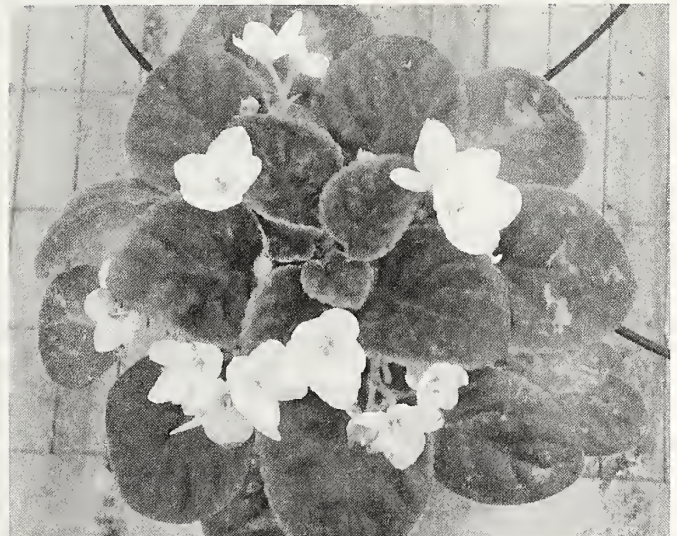
Study is set up to evaluate fungicides as preventative materials prior to significant powdery mildew infection as well as a separate study designed to evaluate which fungicides are most effective in managing an existing serious infection.

### **Preliminary Results:**

1. Pipron is highly effective in both stopping and preventing powdery mildew in African violet.
2. All fungicides except Zero Tol are currently maintaining total powdery mildew control.
3. Zero Tol is providing good-to-very good control.



**Fig 1.** Powdery mildew infection in African violet



**Fig 2.** Fungicidal control of powdery mildew

# Vintage Violets



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## Treasures

Recently, I was in Denver to teach an AVSA Judging School. I was truly honored to be asked, but the highlight of this trip was my meeting with one of AVSA's very big Treasures.

I had the good fortune to meet Ella Kiesling. Yes, Ella Kiesling! At ninety she still attends meetings, lives by herself, and grows African violets. I couldn't resist the temptation to ask if she still grew any of her own hybrids. Pushy, I know, but to get some of her truly Vintage Violets was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. (You know me I never miss a chance to get more Vintage Violets.) And yes, I did come home with two leaves of Lavender Shadow. I also got a promise, from those

attending the school, of getting all of Ella's hybrids that were available in the Denver area. Ella made the comment that she no longer hybridized. As the saying goes, "I await with baited breath" for any of Ella's plants.

Please search the AVSA Most Wanted Column in this issue and check to see if you are growing any of the African Violet Treasures. If you are, there are people waiting for them.

Thank you all for your participation and kind words. Remember, if someone is good enough to share with you, please return the postage, asked for or not.

As you can see, I have a new E-Mail address. I am sorry I was off-line to some of you for so long.

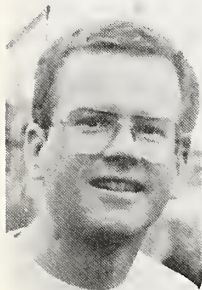
## AVSA Most Wanted

- |                          |                  |                            |                      |                         |                          |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Aaron's West Coast Swing | Apricot Frost    | Bavaria                    | Blue Reverie         | Calico Kitten           | Circus Circus            |
| Ace of Cedar Rapids      | Arabesque        | Becky's Gypsy Trail        | Blue Rosette         | California Cascade      | Circus Clown             |
| Adele                    | Arpege           | Bee Lee Tee                | Blue Skies           | California Giant        | Clackamas Surprise       |
| Adeline Krogman          | Artic Blizzard   | Belle's Spring Song        | Blue Smoke           | Camellia                | Clipper                  |
| Admiral Amazon           | Athena           | Behnke Boy                 | Blue Velvet          | Camouflage              | Clipper Trail            |
| Agglitter                | Atlantic City    | Benjamin                   | Blue Warrior         | Campanile               | Coconut Fluff            |
| Albert The Second        | Audry            | Bergen Strawberry Sherbert | Blue Wren            | CandleLight             | Colonial Pink            |
| Ablaze                   | Aunt Clara       | Benice                     | Blue Wren            | Candy Dandy             | Colorama                 |
| Albino Blue Eyes         | Autumn Glow      | Billy "Crash" Craddock     | Bobby                | Candy Dandy             | Colibre                  |
| Aliane                   | Autumn Halo      | Bing Cherry                | Bonnie Lassy         | Carousel Lady           | Color Splash             |
| Alice Blue Gown          | Autumn Russett   | Black Gold                 | Boyce Edens          | Care Deeply             | Columbella               |
| Alice Marie              | Azure Beauty     | Black Russian              | Bridal Lace          | Caribbean               | Comanche maid            |
| Alice's Cochise          | Azure Trinket    | Black Velvet               | Brilliant Lady       | Carnival Queen          | Comet Trail              |
| Alice's White Xmas       | Baby Blue        | Black Waves                | Bryte Angel          | Carillon                | Conchita                 |
| Amazon Pink Delite       | Baby Girl Spoon  | Blazing                    | Bryte Bells          | Cashmire Pink           | Confessions              |
| Amazon Pink Luster       | Baby Helen       | Blue Albino Girl           | Bryte Tips           | Casu Small              | Constance Hansen         |
| America                  | Baby Pink        | Blueberry Ruffle           | Bryte Sensation      | Catherine               | Constance Hansen Supreme |
| American                 | Baby's Lace      | Blue Bouquet               | Bubblin' Over        | Cat's Meow              | Copy Cat                 |
| Amethyst Sparks          | Bagdad           | Blue Buttercup             | Bud's Strike Me Pink | Cecile Ambler           | Coral Cascade            |
| Anafair                  | Baker's Hot Lips | Blue Dart                  | Bulls Eye            | Cenise                  | Coral Cove               |
| Andante                  | Ballet Carla     | Blue Fandango              | Bunny Hop            | Chapel Boy              | Coral Radianc            |
| Andy Griffiths           | Ballet Erica     | Blue Fling                 | Burgundy Bliss       | Cherokee Fire           | Coral Reef               |
| Anna Therese             | Ballet Eva       | Blue Heiress               | Buttercup            | Cherokee Rose           | Coral Reef               |
| Anne's Favorite Sport    | Ballet Grace     | Blue Le Fleur              | Butterflies          | Cherubini               | Coral Satin              |
| Anne Slocomb             | Ballet Helga     | Blue Morning Glory         | Butterfly White      | Chicapee                | Coral Tips               |
| Antique Mahogany         | Ballet Inga      | Blue Nymph (Standard)      | Button Trinket       | Chiffon Wasp            | Cordarama                |
| Apache Campfire          | Ballet Meta      | Blue Parade                | Buttons and Bows     | Cinderella (Flower Pot) | Cordelia                 |
| Apple Valley             | Bashful Beauty   | Blue Peak                  | Cafe Au Lait         | Cinderella's Slipper    | Conucopia                |
|                          |                  |                            |                      | Cindy Darlene           | Cotton Bowl              |



Creekside Moonbeams	Fox Run	Jo's Velveteen	Maverick's Young Love	Pretty Please	Snow Queen
Crested Jewel	Frances Young	Josie	May Dance	Priscella	Spangles
Crimson Glo	Frathel's Debbie	Joy Pink	Melly	Puerto Vallarta	Spiced Peach
Crimsunny	Frathel's Most Precious	Just Beautiful	Melodie Frances	Pure Innocence	Sport of Crimson Frost
Crown of Jewels	Fredette's Blue Jean	Kansas City Chiefs	Melodie Heather	Purple Crest	Spring Deb
Crown of Red	Fredette's Elita	Kansas City Royals	Melodie Kristen	Purple Enchantment	Star of David
Crusade Trail	Fredette's Sugar Blues	Karen Linda	Merida Wasp	Purple Nautilus	Star of India
Crytal Rose	Fredette's Twilight Fantasy	Kay Russell	Merry Christmas (Kramer)	Purple Rocket	Star Trailer
Curley Q	Filled Blue	King Richard	Michele	Purple Star	Stormy Night
Dagmar	Filled Orchid Rosette	Kiss't	Midnight Star	Push Over	Sugar Plum Fairy
Dainty Doll	Frosty	Kramer's Easterling	Mighty Mini	Quiet Enough	Summer Lightening
Dainty Maid	Galt Grape	Krita Lynn	Mimi's Stars	Quiet Laughter	Summer Silk
Daisy Doll	Gay Coquette	Krisie	Mindi's Tears	Quiet Melody	Summer Spice
Dallas Pride	Gay Miss	Kuhl's Parnassus	Mine Alone	Quiet Reflection	Suncoast Pink Giant
Dalliance	Gay Patee	Kuhl's Pink Treasure	Ming Rose	Quintara	Sunday Morning
Dansuese	Genesee Silhoette	Kuhl's Roundelay	Ming White	Radiant Star	Swan Lake
Daphne (High Hill)	Geneva Rose	Kuhl's Tralie Rose	Miss Liberty	Rainbow's Bantam Neon Glo	Sweet Honesty
Dark Angel	Geneva Trail	Lacy Girl	Miss Wisconsin	Rainbow's Showboat	Sweet Lady
Dark Crystal	GiGi(not Rhapsodie)	Lacy Laser	Mohawk Trail	Rainmaker (Blansit)	Sweet Mary
Dark Eyes	Gilded Strawberry	Lacy Red	Monaco	Ramblin' Rascal	Swiftly Lace
Darth Vader	Ginger	Lady Alura	Moonfire	Raspberry Charm Stripe	Taffy Pull
Dates Fanfare	Glacier Point	Lady Catherine	Moon Moths	Raspberry Frills	Targeteer
Dates Jubilee	Glow Baby	Lady Clara	Moon Silver	Raspberry Glo Stripe	Tassy
Dates Masterson Wasp	Gorgeous Bicolor	Lady Constant	Mountain Blue Boy	Raspberry Sundae	Teen Princess
Dean's Velvet One	Gorgeous One	Lady Luck	Mountain Wildflowers	Ravenscrest	Teen Queen
Deborah's Oh My	Granger Gardens Angel Lace	Laredo Lad	Mount Fuji	Ravishing Ruffle	Teen Wonder
Deep Sea Treasure	Granger Gardens Blue	Last Snow	Mrs. George S. Dupont	Razzle Dazzle	Tennessee Apple Blossom
Deleon Pixie	Empress	Launinda	Ms Frizz	Rebecca Jane	The Bride
Deleon Posie	Granger Gardens Fuchsia	Lavender Blue	My Darling	Red and White	The Parson's Ruffles
Desiree	Bride	Lavender Elfin Girl	My Lady Sue	Red Camation	The Parson's Wife
Diane	Granger Gardens White Gold	Lavender Lady	My Spoon	Red Mount Fuji	The Redhead
Diana Ross	Granger's Blue Fashionaire	Lavender Love	Mysterium	Red Rocket	Tidewater's Sweetheart
Dib's Thrill	Granger's Calais	Lavender Swirls	Neon Rainbow	Regina	Timber Top
Dingbat	Granger's Cotillion	Leawalla	Niagara's Pink Beacon	Renee	Tinari's Blue Eyes
Dippity Do	Granger's Eternal Snow	LeBaron	Nona Weber	Reverie	Tinari's Wild Girl
Disco Babe	Granger's Fashionaire	Legacy	Nortex's Holiday Haven	Rhapsodie Candy	Tinted Snow
Dominion Rose	Granger's Festival	Leprechaun Trail	Nosy Bouquet	Rhapsodie Roxanne	Tiny Blue
Donna Lee	Granger's Jim Dandy	Levittown	Odyssey	Rhapsodie Venus	Tiny Pink
Donna Lynn	Granger's Peppermint	Liberty Bell	Ohio Bountiful	Rhapsody	Top Notch
Dorothy Gray	Granger's Rio Rita	Lilac Lassie	Old Blue Eyes (Mendoza)	Rhinestone Cowboy	Tribute
Do's Jean	Granger's Rose Ember	Lilac Puff	On Edge	Rippled Romance	Triple Threat
Double Dutchess	Granger's Rosemarie	Lilac Time - Behnke	Optimara Angelica	Risque	Twinkle
Double Mini Orchid	Granger's Venetian Lace	Lilibelle	Optimara Annie	Rob's Gray Ghost	Twist of Lime
Double Orchid Girl	Great Find	Lith Lassie	Optimara Little Cherokee	Rob's Green Jeans	Ultra Violet Saturn
Double Pink Cameo	Great Scott	Lime Taffy	Optimara Kansas	Rob's Nearly Perfect	Valera
Double Pink Cloud	Great White Way	Linda's Love	Optimara Maine	Rococco	Vibrant Val
Double Seafoam	Green Glo	Little Boy Blue	Optimara Missouri	Rosalynn Carter	Violets N' Gold
Double Take	Green Go	Little Busy Bee	Optimara New Jersey	Rosebud Trail	Viva
Double Uncle Bob	Green Hornet	Little Dee	Optimara Pennsylvania	Rosie Lou	Vulcan's Treasure
Double Velvet Girl	Grenadier	Little Doe	Orchid Beauty	Rowena	Waltztime
Double Wild Rosa	Gypsy Charm	Little Geneva Princess	Orchid Ripples	Royal Elegance	Wee Stevie
Dresden China	Half and Half	Little Joan	Oui Bells	Royal Heart	Westdale Purple Mountain
Dresden Doll	Hankkerchief	Little Lois	Oui Ben	Royal Ruby	What Now
Dress Blues	Hawaiian Eye	Little Lou	Oui Louie	Ruthies Bell	Whirlaway
Dutchman	Heather Mist	Little Louie	Oui Love	Sabrina Marie	Whirlaway Sport
Dwarf Ionantha	Heavenly Halo	Little Love	Pagan Fire	Sailor's Dream	Whisper Valley
Easter Bonnet	Helen VanPelt Wilson	Little Lulu	Painted Lady	Sailor Girl	White Delaware
Easter Egg	Highbrow	Little Maroon	Pam's Potpourri	Scarlet Macaw	White Girl
Edna Haugh	Hobnail Pink	Little Miss Texas	Paragon	Sea Bells	White Pride Supreme
Edna's Joy	Holly Go Lightly	Little Rascal	Parisianne Sport	Sea Grape	White Wedgewood
Eileen	Holly Peach	Little Red Wagon	Park Avenue	Sea Gull	White Whisper
Eleanor	Hortenses Zapata	Little Ruddy	Patriot	Sea Queen	White and Roses
Elsie	Hot Cargo	Little Seabird	Paul Bunyon	Sea Shell	Wizard of Oz
Elsted's Oakleaf Cluster	Hot Line	Lola	Paul's Pazazz	Sensational	Wonder Surprize
El Toro Supreme	Hot Touch	Love Song	Peach Jubilee	Shannon Renee	Wrangler's Campfire
Emma Lahr	Hyla's Fairy Sparkles	Lulu Belle	Peach Ruffles	Shasta	Wrangler's Double Pleasure
Emperor Wilhelm	Iceberg	Lucky Duck	Peepers	Sherry Love	Wrangler's Lady Lee
Etna	Illini Deb	Lucky Stripe	Peggy Staat	Sheryl's Renee	Wrangler's Lady Vallin
Fairy Image	Illini Gem	Luxury	Peppermint Fog	Shine Boy	Wrangler's Lavender Lasso
Fairy Prince	Inca Maid	Lyndy Lou	Pilgrim Maid	Show Stopper	Wrangler's Moon Dance
Fancy Flirt	Indian Girl	Lynn	Pigmy or Pygmy	Silver Anniversary	Wrangler's Moonshine
Fancy Pants	Indian Summer	Lyon's Whisper Blue	Pink BeautyPink Dresden	Silver Champion	Wrangler's Pardner
Fantasy Double Ann	Irish Elf	(Whisper Blue Lyon's?)	Pink Frosting	Silver Crest	Wrangler's Prairie Fire
Fantasy Wasp	Ivory Fashion	Madison's Whisper Blue	Pink Geneva	Silver Flute	Wrangler's Ricochet Romance
Fantasy Lou	Ivory Venus	Mammy	Pink Girl	Silver Token	Wrangler's Rough Rider
Fashion Frenzy	Jantien	Manhattan	Pink Mink	Sixpense	Wrangler's Roundup
Festival	Jasmini	Mardi Gras	Pink Reverie	Skagit Ambassador	Wrangler's Sonuvagun
Fire Bugg	Jazzy	Marie's Pacific Sunrise	Pink Velvet	Skagit Royalty	Wrangler's Twilight Trail
First Recital	Jeff's Jewel	Marine	Pistacio	Skybird	Wrangler's Yankee Yodler
Fisher's Anne Marie	Jennifer	Maroon Frost	Plum Passion	Sky Magic	Zippy (Baker)
Flamingo Girl	Jillian (Fredette)	Mary Lou	Plum Tip	Snow Drops	Zuni
Fleur De Mais	Jimmy Crack Corn	Mary Louise	Pom Pom Delight	Snow Flake	
Floral Fantasy	Jovanny	Morea Surf	Popsicle	Snow Flurrie (Arndt)	

# Question Box



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Living in the land of total excess, Southern California, I shouldn't be surprised by Mother Nature indulging herself as a part of this craziness. This past week brought us buckets of rain after many months of dry weather. We said "Thanks" for the much needed moisture, for clear sunny days, and that the ground dried out quickly. The problem is finding some way to retain this wonderful life source for our African violets. There are many parts of the country that are lucky enough to have cisterns to store the super bounty of rain when it falls in abundance. I've tried saving rainwater, but ended up with the ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. Plus, with so many plants you need much more water than I could collect during one storm. Often, that may be all we get, (one thirty hour storm) for a few weeks. Thirty gallon containers filled with water do not lend themselves to being moved about, and while there's the option of filling several barrels, getting wet isn't my thing. Where do you store the water even if it is covered tightly enough to exclude mosquitoes? I see my green eyed monsters are still at work, envying all of you that have great water while I try to figure out some means of improving the water I have without wasting huge amounts. Pity we can't share the water around the country, as I know there are other areas with water problems.

By the time you read this, many of the spring shows will be history. This is my favorite time of year. It gives us a chance to see what is being grown, the trends in growing, especially as to which size is getting the nod. It's always rewarding to know there are people taking the time, the extra space, and the energy to grow standards once again. We had a few years when almost all of the plants being shown in this area were minis, semi-minis or trailers. While those are wonderful plants, when they are displayed in a large building or mall, they tend to blend together since there are no huge

heads of color to draw the eye.

If you were showing, I hope you won big or at least had as wonderful a time as I always have at spring shows.

**QUESTION:** *In May I purchased a leaf of 'Arcturus' which I saw and fell in love with at a show. After I put the leaf down, it produced only one plantlet. The blooms on my plant look the same as the plant I saw, but the foliage is different, lacking the nice solid dark green. The leaves look like they are heavily variegated with yellow - green. It doesn't grow big, and the outside leaves turn yellow as they grow. My other plants are all healthy and large. Would you buy new leaves and start again?*

**ANSWER:** This has happened to me, especially when I've gone to a convention and the leaf did not get planted for quite some time after being removed from the mother plant. I'm not sure just what has taken place in the growth cycle, but if it were mine I'd buy new leaves and start again. As I've had some problems with leaves from conventions, I try to avoid the x-ray at the airport. Almost always, if you are willing to wait, they will look at your "goodies" and not run them through the machine. There is also the possibility that there was damage done to the leaf due to extreme cold or even heat which was not noticeable to the naked eye. This could have caused the leaf to react in an unusual way. For quite some time, hybridizers have triggered mutations with certain chemicals, in order to produce new varieties. In growing, it's necessary to keep in mind that we are dealing with a very unstable plant, or we would never have all the wonderful varieties we enjoy. Our contribution is providing a growing environment as stable and consistent as is possible to reduce the stress that seems to trigger mutation or reversion to just one color on edged plants.

**QUESTION:** Somehow I have gotten an infestation of cyclamen mites, in spite of being very careful. I heard "Avid" would get rid of them but they will not sell it to me because it is so dangerous. Do you know what will get rid of this problem?

**ANSWER:** Speaking as a total coward, which I am when it comes to using pesticides, I'd start by throwing out all the damaged plants. Next, you can go to your county Agriculture Agent and ask for help in selecting "safe" pesticides. You can then call the manufacturer and ask about the product's use on African violets. Even better, check with club members that have safely used a product on their collection that they found satisfactory, and is locally available. Find out if it is legal in your state. Many pesticides are available in some states, but not in others. There are strict laws governing pesticides and their use on various plants.

The best remedy is isolation, or you can spray or give each plant a bath with soap before including them in you collection. New plants in my collection are kept in quarantine until after they are given a soaking soap bath, which I have described in other articles.

**QUESTION:** Due to a Mississippi flash flood, our basement was flooded. We replaced the carpet and washed the walls with Clorox. This was several years ago and at the time of the flood I had 180 beautiful African violets. Then, what I call the "Dwindles" started. The outside leaves of the plants wilted, they stopped blooming, and had some mildew. I repotted, but to no avail. I've used quite a few products, even a new soil mix, and I'm just about to give up. Can you suggest what is wrong?

**ANSWER:** "The Great Violet Mystery". You do not say what year the trouble started, but it's very possible it has nothing to do with the flood. I assume by now all the Clorox fumes have dissipated, and the rug is not emitting a toxic gas. Some rugs are treated with products which have been the cause of illness for the new owners, so this is not an impossible source of trouble. However, I don't recall any complaints of plant loss in the stories of troublesome new rugs. Without seeing any of the plants, it would be hard to say with certainty what would be the source of the problem. One thing I would do is stick with one soil mix, reduce the fertilizer, as when you wick water it is possible to get a build-up of fertilizer residue in the reservoirs,

and don't try anything new on more than two or three plants at a time. Check that the products you are now using are not different from what you were using when you had the beautiful violets a few years back. Did you have mildew before the flood, and if so, were you able to keep it under control? Read all the ingredients to insure no changes or increases have occurred from the constituents of your previous fertilizers. Try to find products as nearly like what you were using before the problems started. The other thing you could do for awhile is keep the collection small in order to monitor each plant. It might be a good idea to set up two plants for top watering and do two others for wick watering to see if one system is making better progress than the other. Be sure any new plant is isolated to prevent some unknown organism from being introduced. If the "Dwindles" disappear, then you could expand to the size you had before.

**QUESTION:** I am a returning member of AVSA after a seven year absence. I have been unable to locate any member of the Spartanburg club and have not seen any notice of a show or sale on the web or in the magazines for that area. I'm looking for a club in upstate South Carolina. If I am not successful in finding a club, I would be interested in starting a club in the local area. However, it would have to be in a year or two.

**ANSWER:** In the September/October 2000 issue of the AV magazine, you will find on page A 12 listings of three clubs for South Carolina. Since I'm not sure what upstate would be, and my geography for the east coast is rather limited, I can only hope this information supplies you with a place to start toward finding a show or sale that would be close enough for you to attend. I'm sure those putting on the show or sale will be able to help you with finding a club or starting one in your area, if it turns out that is necessary.

In regard to starting a local club, AVSA needs all interested members, new or returning, and it is not too soon to contact Bev Promersberger for information on forming a new club. Her address is on the inside of the front cover of any of the recent issues of AV magazine. She is listed near the top under AFFILIATES. Good luck with your endeavors, and may your violets grow into a part of an active AVSA club affiliate.

*Name of columnist replying is in bold print*

## How To Select Proper Pot Size

One common mistake in selecting pot size is to do so based upon the size or age of the plant. Don't confuse repotting with potting-up. Unless one is growing large specimens for show, once a plant reaches maturity, there is no reason to push it into a larger size pot. Simply repot the plant into the same size pot with fresh soil. Another mistake is in using a large pot simply because the plant itself is large. Large plants don't always need large pots. A six-foot cactus, for example, can be quite comfortable in nothing more than an 8" pot. It's roots simply don't

require that much soil.

Instead, remember this rule: use a pot only just big enough to accommodate the plant's root system. For miniature violets this usually means a 2 - 2 1/4" pot, for semiminis, a 2 1/2" pot. Most standards are happy in a 4" pot when mature and grown as houseplants. Also, since violets are shallow-rooted, shallow "azalea" pots are best.

*From VioletsFun Photo Journal*

# Nancy's Hobby, My Pleasure

by Roland Manozzi

One little stand, two little stands, three little stands, four little stands, five little stands, six little stands...

Please! Don't anyone get rid of any plant stands, please, please! Or if you do, don't tell Nancy!

We started in violets many years ago with a little stand that I made. I found a beautiful plant in the supermarket named 'Rhapsodie Mars' which I took home. Who knew anything about that particular plant being an African violet? However, with my wife's green thumb, or should I say hands, 'Rhapsodie Mars' was joined by one or two more and with that I said, "Maybe I'll make a stand for the violets". Now, some years later, with six stands and some 700 violets, I look back and feel great about starting Nancy in her violet hobby.

I must admit, I smile every time I walk by a stand and take in those beautiful blossoms. Her hobby has given me much pleasure, along with some winning pictures in my photography clubs. Maybe I'll add a room on to the house so she can have six more stands. What do you think?

Now, on the serious side, for those that want to figure out

the cost of their electricity usage from their plant stands, here goes:

Divide your total electric bill by the number of kWh (kilowatt hours) used for cost per kWh.

Multiply bulb wattage times the number of bulbs times number of hours used daily. This results in total wattage used daily. There are 1000 kilowatts in one kWh.

Divide total wattage by 1000 and you now have total kilowatt hours used.

Multiply total kWh by cost per kWh and you have your daily cost. Multiply that by 365 and you have your annual cost.

Example: One stand with six forty watt bulbs running ten hours per day

Total electric bill \$100 monthly for 1000 kWh is .10 per kWh

40 watts x 6 bulbs x 10 hours equals 2400 watts / by 1000 equals 2.4 kWh

2.4 kWh times .10 equals .204 cents daily times 365 days is \$74.46 annually.

## BEST VARIETIES LIST

Send Your Choices for 2001

Each year our best growers and hybridizers advise the beginning and even experienced growers, to check the Best Variety List in our African Violet Magazine for the surest and most consistent plants to add to their collections.

This advice is good because the Best Variety List is the compilation of those varieties, new and old, which have performed well across the nation and around the world, in many different growing conditions, and with many different approaches to growing. Because the List is made up from the choices AVSA members submit, the Best Variety List is your list, those plants which have done the best for you.

Here is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Which are your favorites? Which would you encourage others to buy and raise? Between now and July 31, 2001, every member of AVSA is encouraged to take time to sit down and make a list of twenty-five of their favorite plants. The lists may be sent singly or as a part of an affiliate's summary.

**IMPORTANT:** *If you make only one list for a club, please list ALL plants which received any vote at all, and show how many votes each plant received.* This is essential so that my totals are correct. Please do NOT send a list of only the top twenty-five for your club. Enclose the total number of members voting, and the name of the affiliate.

The more votes, the better the List! Plan now to have all your members participate ... and then watch the

November/December African Violet Magazine for the results.

Send your list to: **Floyd Lawson**

1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21

Arcadia, CA 91007

or e-mail to [FloydLL@earthlink.net](mailto:FloydLL@earthlink.net)



## Attention All Affiliates!

Do you want to make your meetings shorter and more interesting? In this day of "busy people" who want to make the best use of their time, it is important to keep your affiliate meetings as brief and interesting as possible. If you are planning to attend the Chicago convention, we want to help you. All Presidents, Vice Presidents, and interested affiliate members are invited. We hope every affiliate will have a representative present at the Affiliate Meeting.

Wednesday, June 1

4:30-5:30 p.m.

The program will feature a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians and past AVSA President, Mary Boland. Mary will share with us the basic needs of local affiliate meetings and how to make them "brief and interesting". We hope you will attend. We want your questions! We need *your* answers!



# What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

## Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

## From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

## A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

## The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



# Tally Time 2000

Mrs. Anna Jean Landgren  
2450 Iroquois Road • Wilmette, Illinois 60091

Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards from the state and local shows during 2000. This year it is based on ninety-one reports, and I have divided them into six geographical areas.

Show chairs, please note, the names of winning 2001 varieties should be reported on the "Tally Time Report" form included in your Standard Show Award packet. Please send the forms to Anna Jean Landgren at the above address. They must reach me by November 20th to be counted. I must send my completed report to the AVM by December 1.

## STANDARDS

Total Number of Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Mini, SM, Trailer or Species
22	3	2	<b>Picasso</b> M. Tremblay #6924	14	3
11	3	0	<b>Lela Marie</b> I. Lineberg #5668	5	3
11	1	2	<b>Rodeo Country</b> J. Munk #8006	5	3
10	2	0	<b>Windy Day</b> Stork/Boone #7719	6	2
9	1	1	<b>Ness' Candy Pink</b> D. Ness #8133	4	3
9	0	2	<b>Tiger</b> I. Fredette #5433	6	1

## SEMIMIINIATURES

37	3	2	<b>Ness' Crinkle Blue</b> D. Ness #8136	20	12
24	1	1	<b>Irish Flirt</b> S. Sorano #7577	18	4
17	1	2	<b>Rob's Fuddy Duddy</b> R. Robinson #7886	9	5
14	3	0	<b>Ness' Satin Rose</b> D. Ness #8144	8	3
13	0	1	<b>Rob's Boogie Woogie</b> R. Robinson #8606	8	4
9	1	0	<b>Definitely Darryl</b> H. Pittman #7474	6	2
9	1	1	<b>Shy Blue</b> S. Sorano #7989	2	2

## MINIATURES

19	2	3	<b>Orchard's Bumble Magnet</b> R. Wilson #8479	5	9
10	1	1	<b>Ness' Angel Babe</b> Holtkamp #6969	3	5

## TRAILERS

13	0	3	<b>Milky Way Trail</b> J. Stahl #7169	1	9
10	0	1	<b>Rob's Boolaroo</b> R. Robinson #8053	2	7
6	0	1	<b>Rob's Lilli Pilli</b> R. Robinson #8063	2	3

## SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

13	1	1	<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	2	10
9	0	0	<i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i> S 10b	0	9

The following table shows the relation between the award winners by geographical areas.

Variety	Total Number of Awards	Geographical Divisions					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
<b>STANDARDS</b>							
Picasso	22	6	0	6	6	4	0
Lela Marie	11	0	1	6	2	2	0
Rodeo Country	11	0	1	3	6	1	0
Windy Day	10	0	3	6	1	0	0
Ness' Candy Pink	9	0	3	3	0	3	0
Tiger	9	0	0	7	0	2	0
<b>SEMIMINIATURES</b>							
Ness' Crinkle Blue	37	8	9	8	5	6	1
Irish Flirt	24	4	5	5	2	8	0
Rob's Fuddy Duddy	17	1	2	2	6	6	0
Ness' Satin Rose	14	3	0	1	1	8	1
Rob's Boogie Woogie	13	2	4	0	4	3	0
Definitely Darryl	9	0	4	4	0	1	0
Shy Blue	9	5	1	2	0	1	0
<b>MINIATURES</b>							
Orchard's Bumble Magnet	19	2	4	9	2	1	1
Ness' Angel Babe	10	0	6	2	2	0	0
<b>TRAILERS</b>							
Milky Way Trail	13	4	3	5	1	0	0
Rob's Boolaroo	10	2	0	2	0	5	1
Rob's Lilli Pilli	6	0	4	0	0	1	1
<b>SAINTPAULIA SPECIES</b>							
<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	13	5	1	5	0	1	1
<i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i>	8	0	5	1	1	1	0
<b>NUMBER OF WINNERS</b>							
<b>NUMBER OF SHOWS REPORTED</b>							
	274	42	56	77	39	54	6
	91	13	19	26	12	17	4

The states in each geographical area, and the number of Tally Time reports from each state are as follows: #I includes Arizona-3, California-8, Colorado-1, New Mexico-1; #II - Illinois-4, Indiana-1, Iowa-2, Kansas-1, Minnesota-3, Missouri-6, and Wisconsin-2; #III - Connecticut-3, Delaware-1, Massachusetts-1, New Jersey-7, New York-9, Ohio-4, and Pennsylvania-1; #IV - Arkansas-1; Louisiana-1, Oklahoma-1 and Texas-9; #V - Alabama-3, Florida-7, Georgia-1, Maryland-1, Tennessee-3, and Virginia-2; #VI - Alberta-1, New Brunswick-1, Ontario-1, and Quebec-1. No Tally Time reports were sent from the states not listed.

Other varieties winning four or more awards within an area were: #I - Rob's Cool Fruit - (4); #II - Little Pro - (4); #III-*Saintpaulia velutina* - (5) and Rob's Sarsparilla - (4); #IV - Marching Band - (5); #V - Wrangler's Luv Texas - (4); #VI - None.

# Showcase

## *Fisher's Leone*

*Exhibited by: Tony Hullerman*

*Hybridized by: E. Fisher*

*Large*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Optimara Little Ottawa*

*Exhibited by: John Carter*

*Hybridized by: Holtkamp*

*Semiminiature*



*Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky*





*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

*Optimara Rose Quartz  
Orchard's Bumble Magnet  
Rob's Twinkle Blue*

*Best AVSA Mini Collection - Commercial*

*2000 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Olive Ma Robinson*

# Thinking Small



## Pat Richards

15105 S. Seminole Drive  
Olathe, KS 66062-3004  
*email: Patter257@aol.com*

Are you gearing up for the 55th Annual AVSA Convention and Show in Chicago? A tremendous reason to travel to one of America's finest cities! Please consider attending and bringing some of your best miniature and semi-miniature African violets with you to exhibit. Now, on to a discussion on watering:

### WATER, WICKS AND WEEDS

Watering minis and semis is probably the most critical indicator of your plant's success or failure to thrive. Watering must be well-timed, not too often or too much so as to rot the plant's roots, yet often enough to keep the plant's growth steady and vigorous and not leave it shocked. The water must also be warm enough so as not to mar your plant's foliage. Furthermore, because most of us choose to fertilize via a vis water, the correct amount of fertilizer must be used.

### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

There are several different methods to water your minis and semis, and they yield different results! The traditional method is to water by hand, either from the top or the bottom. This method requires time and a steady hand, making it suitable for those individuals with small collections. Watering from the top is most like mother nature intended, mimicking rain and natural fertilization. It is critical when top-watering to avoid getting water in the crown and to make sure the root ball is thoroughly moistened. It is advisable to use a fine spigot to water between the small leaves, and to use tissue or paper towel to carefully blot any water that remains on the foliage or crown. Furthermore, the greatest advantage of top-watering is the natural leaching that occurs, which washes all harmful fertilizer salts down through the soil and into the unused water. This is why the plant must be allowed to remain only a short time in the unabsorbed water and why this water should not be used again. A basic guideline is to let the plant sit for ten to fifteen minutes before disposing of it. If anyone thinks top-watering is only for old-fashioned growers, think again! Some

of the top exhibitors of minis and semis use this method for their best plants because it allows the most control. Before moving on, another caveat should be mentioned: if you decide to try top-watering, it may be to your advantage to use a heavier soil to allow for more water absorption and water holding capacity. Decreasing the amount of perlite, and adding additional vermiculite, peat and even pasteurized soil should be considered.

Bottom watering is similarly time consuming. The advantage is it is less likely water will accumulate on the plant foliage or the crown, however, the "leaching" advantage is foregone. Harmful fertilizer salts will rise within the root ball, making it necessary for more frequent repotting and/or additional leaching. Again, a heavier soil is desirable because it allows the ultimate control in maintaining adequate water levels to your plant. With either top or bottom watering, a singular advantage is more time and attention will be spent with each plant.

### WICKING FROM A TO Z

Wicking is a highly desirable watering method because it is less time consuming and advantageous to plant growth as it provides a steady, even supply of water. Attention need be given only as often as the reservoir empties, as once wicking has been established, growth of the plant will be even. Another advantage is plants wicked on reservoirs are somewhat isolated not allowing the transference of pests and pathogens. The primary disadvantage is accumulation of fertilizer salts within the soil, and on a minor level, less concentrated effort will be focused on the growth of the plant.

Wicks should be made of 100% synthetic material. Any natural material (wool, cotton, etc.) will eventually rot. A reservoir is necessary with this method. For minis and semis, those most desirable are baby food and other small-mouthed jars, plastic yogurt and margarine tubs, and for micro-minatures, prescription drug containers. There are also containers suitable for home display. Consult AVSA commercial suppliers to see what is available.

Wicks should be cut to a length allowing for good contact with the soil so the plant won't dry out, as well as being long enough to extend to the bottom of the reservoir. Some wicking material is multi-ply; the number of strands you use should depend on the weight of your soil and the extent to which the wick contacts the soil. Many growers extend the wick into the soil to a great extent, even so far as to extend above the pot rim. Others, including me, simply lay the wick across the bottom of the pot, splaying the multiple strands so as to allow for more even contact with the soil. Next time you repot, notice if the roots tend to form more strongly closer to the wick; that should tell you all you need to know! Another generalization is the thicker the wick, the less exposure there should be with the soil; the thinner the wick, the more contact there should be in order to establish adequate wicking action.

Because of the accumulation of fertilizer salts, leaching is recommended for wicked plants. Once a month is great, once every three months is okay. To leach, simply pour through the soil with warm, not hot water, letting the excess drain out. As with top-watered plants, DO NOT reuse this water! Continue to leach until the excess water runs clear. Repotting can be a good substitute for leaching if the top 1/4 inch of soil is removed during the repotting process. This is yet another reason why minis and semis need to be repotted so often.

#### MODIFIED WICKING: MATTING

Matting is another method of watering, and is similar to wicking. With matting, 100% synthetic material is used underneath the plants. This may be acrylic blanket material, carpet pads, or specialized material available from commercial African violet suppliers. Generally, a large mat is placed underneath a group of African violets, which are carefully placed on the matting to allow good contact with the pot and the mat. If this is not established, the osmotic reaction will not be established and the plant will go dry. For this reason, many growers keep a wick in the pots to allow for more contact between the soil, pot and the matting.

Advantages again are speed with watering, with an addi-

tional bonus of added humidity arising from the matting. The disadvantages are communal watering allowing for possible contamination from one plant to another by disease or pest. Again, plants will perform best only if leached or repotted frequently. Furthermore, less direct attention may be paid to each individual plant.

#### GREEN GOO AND SMALL ONES

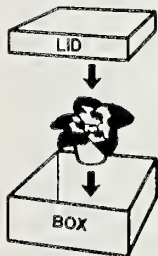
With any watering system, algae buildup is a possible side effect. The algae is not harmful to the plants, but it is unsightly. If it's a problem and you wish to alleviate it, there are several products on the market you can use to restrict its growth. Also, dark material and dark containers will not allow the buildup of algae and make it much less noticeable.

Kent Stork once reported not using anti-algae products because, he concluded, algae is a plant, and if its growth is restricted, then so must my violet's! Perhaps, though, this is a desirable effect with the small ones, particularly those that tend to grow oversize. More food for thought!

#### WEEDS! WEEDS?

This leads to the primary thought for this article: Does an abundant water supply contribute to excessive growth, resulting in minis and semis that are larger than what they should be? In other words, if we spoil our plants with the best of everything, will they flourish "too well"? I'm suggesting it is a possibility with minis and semis, and that we might be better served if we limit their water supply and fertilizer to a lesser degree compared to standards. With standards, size is everything, but with minis and semis, restraint, diminutive size, and essentially, adequate but not excessive growth is what we're after. The point is not to starve the plant, or keep it dry, but to perhaps use a lighter soil and less fertilizer, and treat minis and semis in a refined fashion so they'll not "grow like weeds". To take this a step further, repot more frequently, provide adequate amounts of light, grow on the cool side, and restrict pot size to discourage weedy growth.

## TRANSPORTING VIOLETS TO A SHOW



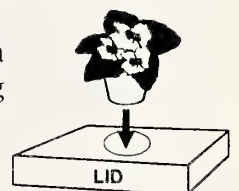
How do growers box their African violets to transport them to a show? Here are two popular methods.

Some growers put shredded newspaper, or soft tissue, in a box and then make a hole for the violet. The paper keeps the violet in place and it provides a surface for the leaves to lay on.

A lid helps during bad weather or when boxes must be stacked on top of each other. If the weather is hot, holes can be cut in the box.

Some growers cut a hole, the size of the pot, in a box lid and then sit the violet in the hole. The lid provides a sturdy surface for the leaves to lay on. (A wooden box can be made and then drilled with holes to hold one or more violets.)

**Note:** You can also set a lid, with a hole in it, inside a box instead of using paper or tissue.



*From the CA Council News*

# Showcase

*Queen Anne*  
Exhibited by: *Nancy Price*



Photo Credit: *Winston J. Goretsky*

*Spunky Trail*  
Exhibited by: *Bob McCabe*  
Hybridized by: *S. Sorano*  
*Miniature Trailer*



Photo Credit: *Winston J. Goretsky*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *ACA's Pink Pansy*

*Exhibited by: Lorna Russell*

*Hybridized by: J. Brownlie*

*Large*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Apache Maiden*

*Exhibited by: Lorna Russell*

*Hybridized by: J. Munk*

*Standard*

# In Search of the Perfect Soil

by Don Geiss  
Fredric, MI



You can call it soil-less mixture, potting soil, mix, or medium. Whatever you call it, it's not soil taken from the ground.

The use of a soil-less material came about because successful growing dictated an environment nearest to that found in Africa, where the plants originated. African violets needed a medium similar to the loose soil in their natural environment.

Lovers of African violets have tried, since the first one was imported, to bed them in the perfect material. In discussions with growers it becomes readily apparent that there is no such thing. However, certain ingredients used in a majority of mixes are worth repeating, including peat moss, vermiculite, and perlite. There are many other additives: charcoal, ground-up burned bark, and more recently, coir, a by-product of coconut husks.

There are many different views on the same material. For instance, one grower said that coarse vermiculite held too much water and was drowning her plants. Another said that fine vermiculite did not retain a sufficient supply of water. Many growers disagree on the amount of sphagnum moss that should be contained in a mix.

Several growers have shared their experiences in changing their basic soil mixture. Bernadine Poulson in California said, "I tried coir, and six months later I have several adult plants with warped centers. However, my friend has similar problems and it may be due to the summer heat." This month she is using some coir with several leachings, mixed with peat moss and perlite/vermiculite.

"The next thing I will try," Bernadine said, "is some Sunshine Professional Potting Mix, although it is not available in California."

Also, moving from place to place forces growers to change their habits. Bev Promersberger is an example. "Every time we move, I have to re-evaluate my soil mix. When I lived in northern Virginia I used one (mix) that included Baccto soil. When we moved to Louisiana, the water and humidity forced me to delete the soil from the mix and make my mix lighter. I adopted a soil-less mix while we lived there. When we moved to Colorado, the water and lack of humidity enabled me to resume a mix with soil, as well as my habit of foliar feeding." Later, she again deleted the soil because of a pH problem. Now, back in Virginia, "I continued to use the soil-less mix because, as they say "if it ain't broke don't fix it."

Carl Walker in North Carolina has a much simpler approach to a mixture, and shows little need for extreme change. "I used

to use the regular peat moss, perlite and vermiculite which I mixed, but lately I've been substituting more perlite for vermiculite and sometimes just buy commercial mix. Usually I end up adding more perlite to the purchased mixes."

Beth Meadows in Arizona noted that she uses equal parts of peat and perlite. "I did try soil, but it was prone to mold. Adding vermiculite to my mix seemed to make for waterlogging and crown rot. Perhaps I'm one of those people who love their plants to death."

When asked about the ingredients in her mix, Mary Walbrick of Texas, told me, "I use a mixture that is lean, light, and porous. The components are coir, peat moss, vermiculite, perlite, charcoal and dolomite limestone. In my growing environment, this formulation exceeds all of my standards and produces robust growth, healthy shine, and that head of large, vibrant blooms that is a must in every plant room."

Peter Thompson of New York uses one and one half parts Pro-Mix BX to one of vermiculite and one part perlite. "This works best for my conditions. When I mix, I use a small spray bottle to keep the dust down."

Allison Brigham of Colorado said that as a substitute for Canadian sphagnum peat moss, coir is a renewable resource, less dusty than peat, more easily rewetted, longer lasting, and compacts less in a mix. "I quickly found that in arid Colorado, the coir mix retained more water than I wanted, particularly with wick watering". Her mix now includes two parts washed and leached coir, two parts peat, three parts perlite and two parts coarse vermiculite. It also includes horticultural charcoal, dolomite lime and ferimate (fungicide). In addition, she emphasized the importance of pH testing, noting that she has recently purchased a home pH meter.

I tried to obtain information from individuals across the country as well as internationally. Mathias Jarvi in Sweden said the Swedish African Violet Society, at one point in its history, introduced perlite and vermiculite to the public at a large garden exhibit. Later, they had various soils analyzed, and found one that could provide much nutrition. The soil was composed of peat, cow manure, sand and a balanced supply of fertilizer. "I use three liters of the special soil, two of vermiculite and one liter of perlite. To this mix, I add a bit of sphagnum moss for *Streptocarpus*."

Eva Busch in Germany stated, "Now I am using four parts of peat, and four parts of perlite, with two parts of vermiculite. Because the pH came to around 3.3, I added quite a lot of

dolomite lime." She is considering going back to top watering because fertilizer salts wash out and she does not have to repot as frequently.

Kiko Matsui in Osaka, Japan, reported that she uses the soil that is blended for African violets at the nursery Sosei-En in Hyogo Prefect. "I do not know in detail what the soil contains, but I think the following materials are included: vermiculite, peat moss, perlite, Million, MagampK, fertilizer and sealime (powder of oyster's shell). There are some growers who mix these materials in their own proportions." (The magampK is a timed released fertilizer mix made in the U.S. by the Hyponex Company.)

Kiko said that the commonly used commercial soil contains 60-80% vermiculite, 20-40% peat moss, 5-10% perlite, 5-10% Million, 0.3% MagampK, and 0.5% phosphate fertilizer. Million is a trade name for montmorillonite, a powder found in the northern part of the main island. Yoko Okuto in British Columbia did some research on the substance, and found that in the olden days the "white sand" was used to cure diarrhea and minor cuts. People called it "magic sand".

Almost all of the growers contacted for this article used the same basic material. Often, the substance referred to as soil is primarily peat moss.

Individuals blame the amount of peat in any mix as the cause of success or failure since too much, they claim, causes root and stem rot. Vermiculite can be a culprit because of its water-holding capacity. It is also blamed for the formation of algae. Some materials which might be called minor may be a major contribution to those using them. Some of these so-called minor substances include dolomite lime, superphosphate, charcoal, and bone meal.

In the preparation of our mix, we purchase bulk bags of four to five cubic feet of Metro Mix 360, manufactured by

Scotts Lawn Products, extra coarse vermiculite and coarse perlite. From the very beginning, our mixture has given us nice plants with a plentiful supply of flowers. The most recent innovation for Scotts and Metro Mix was the addition of coir. We now use this revised mix and find no difference in our plants.

How many readers just thought, "I think I'll try that mix"? How many asked, "Where does he get that stuff"?

These questions lead to a very important part of growing ideal plants.

One person's perfect mix is not perfect for all growers. Growers want to try new things. The secret is to experiment with new materials on one or two plants first, to see if another product will do a better job of raising the ideal plant than the mixture that you are now using.

If you cannot obtain the ingredients others use to make their preferred soil mixture, use the tool available to you. Ask various dealers or manufacturers about the products you are interested in trying, and where they are sold.

Some ingredients are available only in large quantities. A person may be satisfied with a commercial mix, but if not, where do you turn to experiment with other ingredients?

The members of some local African violet clubs make cooperative purchases in large quantities. Also, you may consider contacting an individual who mixes their own potting mix, and purchase a small amount with which to experiment.

It is a group of three magical substances that allow us to grow beautiful African violets. Experimentation can be a solution if your plants can stand improvement. Good growers don't want to watch a plant gradually fade away for lack of trying.

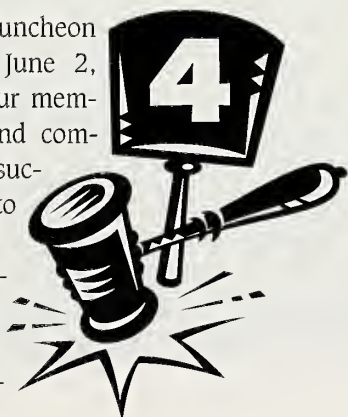
If there is any message here, it is to try something new with one or more plants. Experimentation should be a continual project for persons seeking perfection.



## Saturday Luncheon Auction

This, the fourth annual luncheon auction, will take place on June 2, 2001. We need the help of our members, affiliates, hybridizers, and commercials to make this auction successful. All monies raised are to benefit all of AVSA.

Won't you consider donating a violet-related item or craft to this coming auction? Hybridizers - donations of sup-



plies or newly introduced plants or cuttings would be very much appreciated.

Your help will insure the success of this auction. Anyone making a donation will receive special notice and all donations and contributors will be acknowledged in the AVM. Remember, you must attend the luncheon in order to attend the auction. Please join us.

Please let me know if you will be donating any items. A description of the item should be included with your notice.

Edna Rourke, 99 Old Stratford Road, Shelton, CT 06484-6129 (203) 926-9716, email <Apapillon@aol.com>.

# Showcase

## *ACA's Coral Beauty*

*Exhibited by: Lorna Russell*

*Hybridized by: J. Brownlie*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *White Madonna*

*Best Vintage Violet*

*2000 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Helen Barrett*

*Hybridized by: Eyerdorn*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*





Photo Credit: Pat Hancock

*Buckeye  
Dogwood Spring*  
Hybridized and Exhibited by:  
*Pat Hancock*  
Large



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

*Chirita sinensis*  
*'Hisako'*  
Exhibited by: *Barbara Pershing*  
2000 AVSA National Show  
Best Other Gesneriad

# AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA CELEBRATES 50 Years!

by Ellen Frilseth • Roseville, Minnesota

The week of October 23, 2000, was declared African Violet Week by the Governor of Minnesota. And what a week it was! The African Violet Society of Minnesota staged its spectacular golden anniversary show October 27, 28 and 29, 2000. The event, organized by committee members Ruth Bann, Kathy Lahti, Conrad Nelson, Jude Neumann, and Palma Trapp, celebrated fifty years of growing and showing African violets in Minnesota.

With the North Star African Violet Council participating as our guests, horticulture entries totaled 210. Three AVSA commercial members honored us with their presence and set up sales tables at the show: Don and Jean Ness, Midland Violets, White Bear Lake, MN; Marcia Belisle, Belisle's, Ojibwa, WI; and Kent and Joyce Stork, Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE.

Attendance was large and sales were brisk at this widely-publicized event. We greeted African violet fans from Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, Illinois, Colorado, Florida and California, as well as numerous friends from Minnesota. One fellow wrote that he rode a bus twenty hours each way just to come to our show. He reported that the plants he bought survived the trip very well.

The birth of African violet clubs in Minnesota took place on a bitterly cold day in January, 1948, when a few friends gathered to discuss varieties and compare notes. This small, ambitious group presented the first public exhibition of violets in April, 1949.

Organization of the Minnesota society soon followed in the fall of 1950. Dora Baker and several others successfully led an effort to bring together eighteen individual clubs in the Twin Cities area and established a board of governors made up of one member selected from each club.

The first African violet show was held in April 1951. Twelve clubs exhibited 350 plants on club tables. It appears the propagation table was of great interest to the 15,000+ people seeking to gain knowledge about this special houseplant. One columnist used the words "fanatical cult....that is steadily gaining converts" to describe its popularity.

Show reports indicate attendance of 20,000 to 30,000 per show, with police officers channeling the traffic - one out, one in. One person, in 1952, reported that she had been ushered into a line at 10:30 a.m., finally got a peek at the first table at 11:45 and viewed the last table at 1:15 p.m. That year, white African violets seemed to be a novelty and variegated specimens were described by one newspaper as a "freak growth."

An interesting problem surfaced in 1954 when a group of men formed a violet club and asked to join AVSM. The bylaws precluded men from joining, stating that "we are a women's organization." Club representatives on the Board were asked to discuss with their clubs if men should be allowed to participate in the 1954 show. Apparently, they were invited that year and each succeeding year. The bylaws were eventually revised to include them.

The fledgling society hosted its first AVSA national convention in 1956. Two additional national conventions, in 1973 and 1986, have been hosted in the Twin Cities by AVSM.

Our 2000 State Fair show, "A Half Century of Violets," celebrated our golden anniversary and our 29th year of exhibiting at the State Fair.

We're proud of our Minnesota hybridizers, whose numerous registered varieties grace our plant stands. Carrying on the work begun by Bob Anderson, who created such a sensation at the 1954 convention with his "double pink", Don and Jean Ness, Ruth Bann, and Dolores Harrington continue to wow us with their beautiful hybrids.



*"White latticework and gold lame formed a beautiful backdrop for the best-in show award winners. The queen's table was designed by Barb Werness."*



*"Ruth Bann enjoys dinner out with Kent Stork and the Nesses."*



*"Jean Ness shares a quiet moment with Marcia Belisle and Marcia's daughter, Jean."*

## Give Your Favorite Variety Recognition in Washington, D.C.!

Recently, Washington, D.C. has been bustling with activity. The election will remain in memory for years. As will the words "recount" and "CHAD"! Now that the new President, Senators, and members of Congress have been installed, you would think things would have quieted down. For the most part they have, but one group generating LOTS of energy is the AVSA Convention committee preparing for May 2002, when "Mr. Violet Goes to Washington." They are hard at work. This is a convention you should plan to attend! The tour possibilities alone are endless!

Awards are now being accepted for the 2002 Washington

D.C. show. Growers, no doubt, are pondering which varieties to work on. If you have a favorite variety (or two or three), why not consider giving it an award of recognition at the convention? Any awards that are designated for specific varieties must reach the AVSA Awards Chairman by July 15, 2001. A list of all specified awards will appear in the September/October 2001 issue of the AVM.

Please make your awards payable (in U.S. Funds) to: AVSA Convention Fund, and send them to: Susan Hoffmann, 801 N. Villier Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23452. (757) 463-5383 <susan.hoffmann@juno.com>

# Lazy Susan Plant Stand FROM THE FIFTIES ...

by Barbara Pershing • Cedar Falls, IA

I recently acquired an almost complete set of the African Violet Magazines. One of the first things I noticed in the December 1950 issue was an advertisement for a Violet Lazy Susan. I now knew where my mother got the idea! I was in college and engaged to an Industrial Arts major at the time. My mother approached him with an idea for a Lazy Susan plant stand for her violets, which he made out of one 4' x 8' sheet of 3/4" plywood. I remember there weren't enough scraps left to complete one of the pieces of the base. It is still missing about 2" of one part of the base! He thinks the plywood cost about \$3 in 1952 and mother gave him \$10 to make it!!

I don't remember that mother belonged to AVSA, but most surely one of her "violet friends" must have, as her idea was similar to a "Suzan" that was advertised in the December 1950 AVM. The advertiser, Schroeders, advertised a three-tier Violet Lazy Suzan, constructed of plywood at a cost of \$12.50. Mother's was most likely patterned after this one. Erna Petrick, in an article in the June 1952 AVM, told how her windows and tables were full of plants and how she enlisted the help of her husband to make a Lazy Susan plant stand. She got the idea for the movable shelves from a strawberry jar planter which she turned a little every day. Everyone who saw Mrs. Petrick's Lazy Susan wanted one like it, and her husband began to manufacture them. The Petrick Bros. Lazy Susan was advertised in the September 1951 and March 1952 AVM's. This five shelf Lazy Susan was made of chrome plated tubing and masonite shelving at a cost of \$45. As I paged through early AVM's of the 1950 - 1955 era, I found no advertisements for Lazy Susan plant stands after 1954. The December 1954 AVM shows a picture of a Mrs. Charles Miller (KS) with four Lazy Susan plant stands. In the March 1954 AVM, a picture of a Mrs. Ilollinger (Canada) with a five-tier Lazy Susan plant stand was shown.

As I was leafing through these old AVM's, it became apparent that fluorescent lighted flower carts and shelves were becoming popular in the middle 1950's. Each later issue seemed to have yet another version of a plant stand with fluorescent lighting. Mother attached fluorescent lights to her Lazy Susan but that made the turning of the shelves difficult. Unfortunately, this was the main 'selling point' for the window grower.

What happened to this 1952 Lazy Susan? First of all, I married that Industrial Arts major forty-seven years ago, and he is still building plant stands, watering devices, etc. for my African violets! After thirty-five years of constant use,



mother gave me the Lazy Susan along with several African violets, which was probably one of the biggest reason why I got bit by the African violet bug. I have a couple of these old varieties along with several hundred more!!

The plywood was in pretty bad shape after many water spills and lots of humidity. When we moved to our new home nine years ago, I put it in a corner of the living room where it gets good south-east light and it found a new home. I had the shelves covered with white counter-top laminate and painted the 3" dowel and base. I added some small under-counter fluorescent lights to the back side so I don't have to remember to turn the shelves frequently. I have found that several of my species plants do very well in this lighting and I cycle blooming standards from the light stands to the Lazy Susan. It is a great addition to an otherwise hard-to-decorate corner of my living room. The Christmas cactus that sits on the top shelf co-exists with the violets quite well.

I wonder if there are any other 1950's era Lazy Susan plant stands still in use for African violets?



*Mayor Evelyn Lord  
and former President  
George H. W. Bush*



*Former President Bush  
speaks about the importance  
of 'Spindletop'.*



*Ray and Hortense Pittman,  
Paula and Bill Foster.*



# Spindletop

# Spindletop



*Spindletop, Lucas Gusher 1901*

One hundred years ago, on a small mound just outside the city of Beaumont, Texas, at 10:32 on the morning of January 10, the Spindletop oil field was discovered as the incredible Lucas Gusher blew in, giving birth to the modern oil industry and to this nation's dominance as a world power.

Spewing more oil in a week than all of the other oil wells in the world combined, the mighty gusher came at a critical time. The world needed energy to fuel steel mills, steamships, locomotives, furnaces and generators in millions of homes and factories.

Three years ago, then Texas Governor, George W. Bush, appointed a state-wide commission to coordinate the celebration of the centennial of this incredible event. The former Mayor of Beaumont, Evelyn Lord, was elected Chairman of the Commission and has remained at its helm through the preparatory years and their culmination this past month. Former President, George H. W. Bush, agreed to serve as the Commission's Honorary Chairman and was the speaker at the Centennial celebration.

Many special projects were carried out to commemorate the event, including a replica gusher which is a permanent fixture and can "blow in" on demand. There is also a new Visitor Center for the Gladys City-Spindletop Boomtown Museum, an educational program teaching 55,000 schoolchildren in Texas the history of Spindletop and its importance, and the building of an overview platform for the original site of the gusher.

One of the very special features of the celebration was the introduction, at a large luncheon sponsored by the Desk and Derrick organization, of a new violet named 'Spindletop'. The plant was hybridized by Texan Hortense Pittman and grown in quantity for the occasion by another Texan, Shirley Sanders. The violet, 'Spindletop' is described in the Master List as, "Single-semidouble white sticktiite pansy, fuchsia center. Dark green, plain. Standard."

"The violet is magnificent!", declared Evelyn Lord, herself an African violet enthusiast, whose name graces another of Hortense's hybrids. "There just couldn't be a nicer way to honor the event than the introduction and

naming of this lovely plant. I must admit that I am particularly happy also to see its beautiful color brought into the largely black and gold theme of the Centennial. We are so grateful to Hortense and to Shirley for paying us this honor and for all the hard work they put into the project to have the violet ready and delivered to us in time for this luncheon and our Big Day."

Hortense and Ray Pittman were joined on their trip to Beaumont, location of AVSA national headquarters, for the Spindletop celebration by current AVSA President Bill Foster and his wife, Paula.

On January 10, 2001, thousands turned out at the replica of Gladys City in Beaumont to see the gusher re-enactment. Former President Bush was welcomed by a cheering crowd of several thousand on the cold blustery day. Under a stormy sky, with rumbling sound effects, 6,500 gallons of water shot through the wooden derrick that was built for this special occasion. The water exploded skyward, to the cheers of the visitors watching from under ponchos and umbrellas, spilling on actors playing the roles of early oilfield workers.

# INTRODUCING 2001 NOMINEES FOR AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



***For President:***

**John (Jack) E. Wilson**

Jack grew up in Springfield, Ohio. During a thirty year career in the US Navy, he traveled all over the world, serving extended tours in Florida and California, as well as many overseas tours. He and his wife, Pat, currently live in Manassas, VA. They have been married for over thirty five years and have two daughters and three grandsons.

Jack has grown African violets for over forty five years and has been a member of AVSA for more than thirty three years. He is a life member, a Senior Judge and Teacher, having attended twenty one AVSA conventions. He has been an AVSA Director and chairman of various AVSA committees, and is our AVSA First Vice President.

While in California he was active in the Balboa Park AVS and the Judges Council of Southern California. He is the Virginia Director for Dixie AVS, a charter member of the Mid-Atlantic AVS and member of the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society. He is active in the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges and the Old Dominion AVS.

Jack is a graduate of the Defense Systems Management College's Program Management Course, and has a BA in Behavioral Science and an MBA. He is an adjunct professor for acquisition logistics, and a consultant for procurement and quality issues.



***For First Vice President:***

**Janet Riemer**

Janet Riemer is from Pennington, New Jersey, and has been a member of AVSA since 1964. She has been a member of the Union County Chapter since 1969, and has served in many offices for the club. Janet is an AVSA Honorary Life Member and a Master Judge. She served as show vice chair and entries chair at the Philadelphia AVSA convention in 1984. She has been a member of the Tri-State AV Council since 1971, and is a great promoter of the much-loved Max Mass hybrids.

Janet has served AVSA as director, nine years as Secretary, and two years as Second Vice President. Janet is currently the AVSA archivist. She received the first Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership, and has received a Continuing Service Award.

She is married and is retired as a preservation archivist in Special Collections and University Archives at Rutgers University.



***For Second Vice President:***

**Linda Owens**

Linda Owens of Columbus, Ohio has been a member of AVSA for twenty years. She is a Life Member, a Senior Judge, and a Teacher. She is a member of the Springfield African Violet Club and the Columbus African Violet Society where she has held numerous offices and committee positions.

She has been a member of the Ohio State Judges' Council since she became a judge. She is currently serving as Treasurer of the Ohio State African Violet Society, and was Convention Chairman for the recent convention.

Her first AVSA convention was in Orlando in 1987, and she has attended each convention since then, serving as Convention Chairman for the 1992 Convention in Columbus. She was a member of the Board of Directors from 1990 through 1992, serving on the Finance committee. Since 1995, she has served as Assistant Convention Director and is currently also serving as Finance Committee Chairman.

She has three step-children and five grandsons. She and her husband, Jim, have been married for twenty six years.



***For Third Vice President:***

**Joyce Stark**

Joyce and her husband, Kent, have been growing violets since 1973. They joined AVSA in 1975, and became commercial members shortly after that. She has been a judge for over twenty years. In 1989, she was Show Chairman for the Kansas City AVSA convention, and was elected to the Board of Directors in 1990, where she served on the Awards, the Convention, the Bylaws, and the Membership Committees. Also, she served as chairman of the Future Directions Committee. She was most recently Convention Chairman for the 2000 Omaha meeting. She and her husband have written the column, "For Beginners," for the past ten years. They were honored with the Bronze Medal Award in 1989. Locally, she is a charter member of the Missouri Valley AV Council, having served as President, Editor, and Parliamentarian. She also belongs to the Omaha AVS and the Lincoln AVS, having served both in several offices.

A teacher before her two sons were born, Joyce often speaks to small groups and classrooms about African violets. In addition, she enjoys writing and reading in her spare time. Mostly, though, you can find her at their combination flower shop and violet business, Kent's Flowers, in Fremont,

Nebraska. Joyce is active in her church, teaching Sunday School and belonging to several Bible study groups, as well as serving as parliamentarian for the congregational meetings.



**For Treasurer: Gary Gordon** of Ashton, Maryland, has been a member of AVSA since 1990 and is a Life Member and advanced judge. He is an avid grower and has won many awards in local and regional shows for his horticulture and design entries. Gary attended his first AVSA convention in Columbus, Ohio

in 1992 and has attended every convention since.

Gary is currently Chairman of the AVSA Finance Committee, President of the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges, President of the National Capital Area Chapter of AGGS, First Vice President of the Dixie African Violet Society and Treasurer of the Baltimore African Violet Club. Also, he is a member of the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society, American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Gesneriad Hybridizer's Association, Bromeliad Society International and is an AGGS judge.

Gary is a 1968 graduate of Louisiana Tech where he received a BA in Business and an MBA in Financial Management. He has held the positions of Division Controller of Maremont Corporation, Nashville, Tennessee; Chief Executive Officer of HealthAmerica Corporation of Ohio, Cleveland, Ohio; and President of Healthcare Corporation of America, Washington, D.C. Currently, he is semi-retired, but works part time as a business consultant and investor. He is active in several community organizations, serving as Treasurer of the Brinkwood Community Association since 1993.

Gary lives with his little girl, Tamiana, a tiny toy poodle. Other interests include computer games, traveling, crafts and painting.



**For Secretary: Sue Ramser**, of Wichita Falls, Texas, has been a member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls for thirty years. She has served as Show Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President eight times.

As member of the Lone Star African Violet Council, Sue has served as newsletter editor twice, Secretary, Vice President, and President. Also, she is active in the North Texas African Violet Judges Council, having served as corresponding secretary, Secretary, Vice President and President.

At the AVSA Convention in Austin in 1978, she was a member of the classification committee, and in 1988 was the president's aide for the AVSA Convention in Dallas. She has served as vice chairman of the AVSA Affiliate Committee, elected director in 1990, and has served as AVSA Sales and

Promotion Table Volunteer Coordinator for the past three years. She serves as secretary of the Shows and Judges Committee. Sue is an AVSA Life Member, Master Judge and Teacher, and in 1993 she compiled "Teaching Tools".

Sue is a graduate of the University of North Texas, Denton, with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Her husband, Charles, is a Professor of Management at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. They have four children. The Ramser family was selected as Wichita Falls' Family of the Year in 1989. Sue's other interests include sewing and knitting.



**For Director: Shirley Berger**, of Sebring, Florida, was enticed into the world of African violets by Bill Lyons and the Lower Bucks County (PA) African Violet Society, joining that group and AVSA in 1982. After joining the Mid-Polk (FL) African Violet Society in 1988, she has held various offices, currently serving

as Vice-President. She is also a member of the African Violet Council of Florida, serving now as its AVSA Representative. A five-year member of the AVSA Booster Fund Committee, she has enjoyed assisting with the fund raising table at three recent conventions.

A retired speech-language pathologist, Shirley continues to assist those with communication difficulties through volunteer work in a community college program of English for Speakers of Other Languages. She enjoys sharing her knowledge of and enthusiasm for African violets with neighbors and friends, as well as with residents of an assisted-living facility. She has established an African violet stand at the assisted-living facility, offering instruction and support in the nurturing of African violets. Travel, reading, and handcrafts occupy her non-violet time.



**For Director: Mary A. Boland** of Alexandria, Virginia has been growing African violets for forty-five years and has been an AVSA member since 1959. She has been a Teacher, Master Judge, and a consultant at AVSA Convention Shows since 1976. Mary has also served on many AVSA committees as a member

or as chairman. AVSA honored Mary at the Atlanta Convention by naming her to the AVSA Hall of Fame. She has attended AVSA conventions since 1965, consecutively. Mary is a charter member of The Old Dominion AVS, Potomac Council of African Violet Judges, and the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society. She is a Life Member of AVSA, Dixie African Violet Society, New York State and the Old Dominion African Violet Society. Mary is the current Parliamentarian for the Mid-Atlantic AVS.

Mary and her husband, Art, have been married for forty

nine years. He is a retired Marine Colonel and a retired government worker. Currently, he is a Consultant with Mary as his office help. They have four daughters and nine grandchildren ranging in ages from a senior in college to a second grader. All nine are actively involved in sports, and Mary and Art attend all the events.

Mary is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, The American Institute of Parliamentarians, And The Virginia State Association of Parliamentarians. She has served the Virginia State as Second Vice President and is currently State Secretary.



**For Director: Jacquie Eisenhut** of Torrance, California, has been a member of AVSA since 1988. She is a Life Member and an advanced judge. She has been assisting the library committee to take photos of the winning plants at the national conventions for about six years. She has attended every convention except one since the 1991 convention in California.

She is currently President of the South Coast AVS and has served as Secretary, Vice President, Show Chairman and President several times. Also, she has been the newsletter editor for nine years. Past president of the Judges Council of Southern California, she is also a member of AV Council of Southern California, Grow & Study Gesneriad Club and AGGS, where she is a student judge.

Hobbies, besides over 300 African violets and gesneriads, include orchids, needlework, sewing and teaching Sunday school for over twenty five years.

She and her husband, Dennis, just celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary. They have three children and two grandchildren. Since his retirement, they have enjoyed traveling around the country.



**For Director: Ruth Loomis**, of Flagstaff Arizona, was first bitten by the African Violet bug in 1978. Since then, her enthusiasm continues to flourish and grow. She served as President of the Flagstaff African Violet Society for four years, as well as holding other offices. She has been a member of AVSA for over twenty years, a judge since 1985, and a Senior judge since 1995. She and her husband, Will, who is also a plant enthusiast, have attended two conventions together and look forward to many more in the future.

A native of New York City, Ruth also lived in Ohio, Kentucky, and the San Francisco Bay Area of California before moving to Flagstaff in 1968.

One of Ruth's ongoing activities is donating African violets to the local hospital. Feedback from the patients who have received her plants is very rewarding. She has written articles for the local newspaper, the Arizona Daily Sun, on plant care; a copy of her article dealing with basic African violet growing is given to patients with their plants.

Ruth is the mother of five grown children and several grandchildren. After marrying young, she attended Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff as an adult with young children at home and earned BS and MS degrees in mathematics. She worked for the U. S. Geological Survey in Flagstaff for fifteen years as a mathematician and computer programmer before resigning in the early 90's. She now devotes much of her time to her real love, growing her African violets and Gesneriads.



**For Director: Nancy Moerer** of Kansas City, Missouri, has been a member of AVSA since 1982. Nancy joined the AVS of Greater Tulsa in 1982 and served two terms as Secretary and one term as President. In 1996, Nancy moved to Kansas City because of a job change. She joined the AVC of Greater Kansas City, Mid America AVS and the Missouri Valley AV Council. She has served as First Vice-President and President of Mid America AVS, and is currently Show Chairman of that organization. She is also an Advanced Judge.

In addition to growing African violets and other gesneriads, Nancy enjoys needlework and reading.

**2001  
AVSA CHICAGO  
CONVENTION  
May 27 - June 3, 2001**





# PLANT REGISTRATIONS MICROFILMING PROJECT

Janet Riemer, AVSA Archivist

When AVSA was originally formed, the need for a method of classifying African violet varieties was recognized. At the first annual convention in 1947, an informal meeting led to the organization of a nomenclature committee which began to describe varieties. In 1948, that committee was replaced with a Registration Committee with Boyce Edens as chairman. Registrations of varieties began as of June 1, 1949 with 'Big Mike', and twenty-one registrations were reported in the December 1949 issue of the African Violet Magazine. Registrations have continued to this day and now number close to 9,000.

In 1959, a world-wide nomenclature code for new cultivars and varieties of cultivated plants was adopted. Scientists developed The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, a system for naming new plants which promoted uniformity and accuracy. In 1966, the African Violet Society of America was designated the International Registration Authority for the genus *Saintpaulia*. This was a great honor, but it also placed a great obligation upon the Society. The registration of varieties was not just for our own purposes now, but for the world at large.

The original records of these registrations have accumulated throughout the years and are cared for by the chairman of the Plant Registration Committee. They exist as originals only. Although information from the records has, over the years, been published in The Master Variety List, renamed The Master List of Species and Cultivars, no complete copies of the original records have ever been made. In order to assure the safety and preservation of the information contained in the original records, the AVSA Board of Directors has authorized the creation of a copy.

Due to the number and bulk of the records, this is a large project. It is known by archivists and paper conservators that copying records onto "good" paper, i.e. paper with an alkaline reserve to neutralize the natural acidity that develops as paper

ages, is a method that provides considerable longevity, but there are drawbacks. It is an expensive process due to the labor involved, and the volume of the records is doubled, which then creates storage concerns. In addition, in order for paper to last a long time, it must be stored in an environmentally controlled location which complicates these concerns.

Preservation microfilming is a method frequently used by archivists when a large collection of records needs to be copied. It is an economical procedure which produces a durable product, one which should last 75 to 100 years or more. Microfilm has become more versatile in recent years, as scanning from film has been developed which permits images to be sent electronically world-wide.

The possibility of scanning, rather than microfilming, has been considered. At the present time, scanning, or any other method of electronically capturing data, is not an accepted preservation tool. It requires reliance on both hardware and software which become obsolete within five to ten years. Technology is developing so rapidly that a project done today would likely be unusable in a short period of time. Microfilming does not have this drawback.

Once the Board of Directors had authorized the project, Bill Lyons took it on as a Booster Fund project. He wrote to affiliates in California to seek their support, as the records are in California and the filming will be done there. In his reports, contributors to this effort refer to the project as the California Microfilming Project. Californians are not being asked to be the only supporters, however anyone who believes that this is a worthwhile effort and would like to contribute may send a donation to the Booster Fund. Assistance throughout the Society will be greatly appreciated.

To support this project, please send contributions to:

**Bill Lyons**

38 Indian Creek Drive  
Levittown, PA 19057

## IMPORTANT NOTICE: SENIOR JUDGES – NEW ADDRESS

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and September 1, 2001. Send request to Meredith Hall, 922 East 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009. Include check for \$5.00, (**payable to AVSA**) and proof of three blue ribbons as per AVSA Handbook, page 83 or S & J Column in Jan/Feb 2001 AVM, page 38. Allow three weeks for delivery. The completed examination must be returned before October 1, 2001 for grading. Examination may be received on disk if requested.

Those Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, send check for \$5.00 (**payable to AVSA**) to Mrs. Hall. Also, send the following items of documentation of eligibility per

AVSA Handbook:

1. List of all judging schools attended, grades, etc.
2. Signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged, and
3. Verification of three blue ribbons earned per AVSA Handbook and S & J Column (Jan/Feb 2001).

Allow three weeks for delivery. Schedules and cards will be returned if a SASE is included with proper amount of postage. Applications postmarked after September 1, 2001 will be returned, and application may be made next year. Completed exams postmarked after October 1, 2001 will not be graded. Allow three weeks or more (after Oct. 1, 2001) for grading and return of examination.

# Management of Phytophthora Root and Crown Rot in African Violet

Larry W. Barnes  
Extension Plant Pathologist  
Texas A&M University

## Background

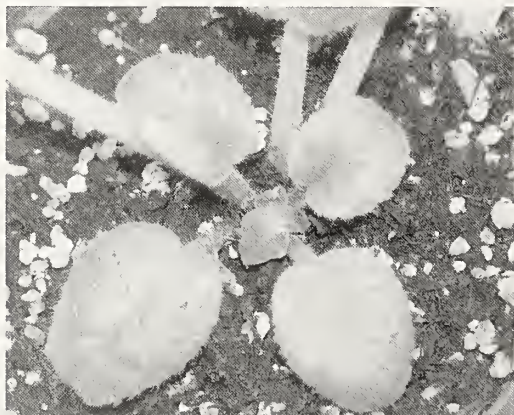
Crown and root rot in African violets, caused by infection by the fungus *Phytophthora parasitica*, can cause serious losses in production. The *Phytophthora* fungus is a water mold fungus and can be very active in saturated potting media and in soils that remain very wet. Because the fungus produces a motile "swimming spore" that can move from place-to-place in an aqueous environment, the *Phytophthora* fungus can cause wide-spread losses.

## Symptoms

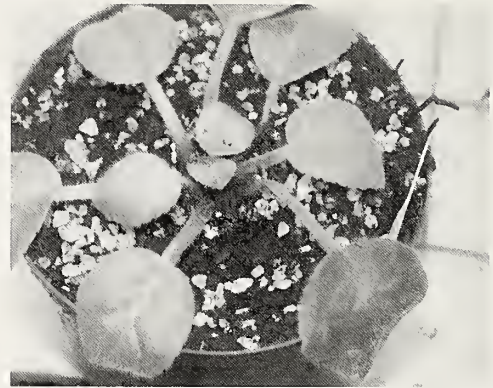
*Phytophthora* infection can occur in the crown, lower stem, and roots. Initial symptoms include a dull, off color appearance of the lower foliage. Lower leaves may become flaccid and droop over the edge of the pot. Close observation may reveal a dark brown necrotic lesion on leaf petioles close to the base or crown of the plant. Over time, the entire crown of the plant becomes infected, discolored and deteriorated. The initial off-color of the plant becomes more obvious as the entire plant wilts. Examination of the roots reveals a mushy consistency with obvious sloughing of the outer layer of the root tissue. *Phytophthora* can be easily confused with *Pythium* infection.

## Purpose

This applied research trial was initiated to evaluate commercially available fungicides for management of *Phytophthora* root and crown rot.



**Figure 2.** Typical symptoms of *Phytophthora* crown rot in African violet.



**Figure 1.** Early stage symptoms of crown and root rot caused by *Phytophthora parasitica* infection.

## Procedure

Using Sunshine #1 peat-based medium, large African violet liners were potted into 4 inch plastic pots and wicked. After potting, the plants were drenched with one of the five fungicides at the rates listed in Table 1. The plants were allowed to drain and were then transferred to styrofoam containers that served as nutrient solution reservoirs. Each reservoir was filled with a nutrient solution (Peter's 15-30-15) at the rate of 125 ppm N. One week after potting and wicking, five mls. of a suspension containing twenty motile zoospores/ml of the fungus *Phytophthora parasitica* was pipetted onto the surface of the potting medium and watered in twenty-five ml of nutrient solution. Plants were placed on the greenhouse bench and maintained under normal cultural conditions.



**Figure 3.** One of the first indications of *Phytophthora* crown rot can be a dark lesion on the petiole where it attaches to the crown area.

**Table 1. Fungicide drench treatments applied to African violet in Phytophthora study.**

	Fungicide	Rate
Treatment 1	Aliette 80 WP	2.5 tsp/gal
Treatment 2	Banol 66.5 F	1.5 tsp/gal
Treatment 3	Banrot 40 WP	1.0 tsp/gal
Treatment 4	Subdue Maxx	15 drops/gal
Treatment 5	Terrazole 25 EC	1/2 teaspoon/gal
Treatment 6	Control	_____

Each treatment was replicated three times and each replication contained four plants. Plants were rated for symptoms of Phytophthora root and crown rot. Since Phytophthora root and crown rot is so aggressive in African violet, any plant with a symptom of root and crown rot was scored as a positive infection.

### Results

The trial was initiated on April 3, 1999. No symptoms of Phytophthora infection were noted until May 1. Following the first symptoms, additional plants began to show symptoms over the next four weeks. The study was terminated on June 2, and final readings were collected.

**Table 2. Results of fungicide drench application for Phytophthora parasitica control in wicked, container-grown African violets.**

Treatment	Rating Date/No. Plants With Symptoms									
	4/3	4/10	4/17	4/24	5/1	5/8	5/15	5/22	5/29	6/2
Aliette 80 WP	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	6	6	6
Banol 66.5 F	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3
Banrot 40 WP	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	6	6	6
Subdue Maxx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Terrazole 25 EC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Control	0	0	0	0	3	7	9	10	10	10

### Conclusions

All fungicides used reduced Phytophthora root and crown rot when compared to the non-fungicide-treated control. The fungicides Subdue Maxx provided total control of Phytophthora infection, based on lack of symptom development. Terrazole 25EC also performed well with only 1/12 plants becoming infected, and that infection occurred in the latter portion of the trial. The fungicide Banol also performed well, compared to the non-treated control, with 3/12 plants showing infection and symptom development. Infection in the Banol treatment was also over a month after the initial fungicide application.

Most of the fungicides used in this trial can be reapplied at four to six week intervals. As symptoms appeared to become most

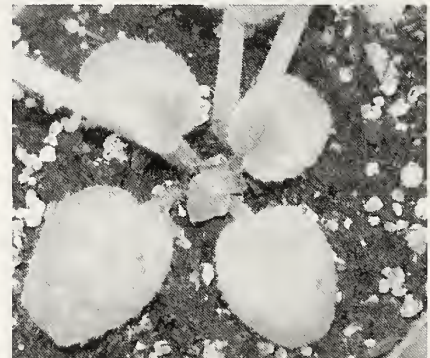
obvious five weeks after the fungicide treatment, a retreatment at four week intervals would likely provide effective long-term control.

It is important to remember that the Phytophthora fungus is a water mold fungus. Its activity is known to be significantly enhanced under conditions that maintain very wet, saturated soils or rooting media. Although the wick-type irrigation that is commonly used to fertilizing and irrigating African violets can contribute to increased problems with water mold fungi such as Pythium and Phytophthora, periodic use of drench-applied fungicides specific for water mold control should reduce plant losses from water molds. Additionally, it is very important that the potting or transplanting operation not compact the potting mixture excessively. Excessive compaction of the rooting medium will

result in an increase in bulk density of the medium and a concomitant reduction in porosity and aeration. A reduction in porosity and aeration greatly favors Pythium and Phytophthora root and crown infection. Additionally, growers should monitor the salinity (the electrical conductivity, EC) of the nutrient solution periodically to insure that EC levels are not excessive. High EC levels have also been shown to enhance infection by Pythium and Phytophthora.

#### **Phytophthora root and crown rot in African violet**

A study will be initiated to evaluate the effect of high fertility (high soluble salts) in contributing to Phytophthora root and crown rot. Also, fungicides will be tested, as well as some of the newer, available and experimental biological control agents for control of this disease problem.



# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

March Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Thu. 10:36 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
2 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd 9:03 pm
3 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
4 Sun. 3:24 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
5 Mon.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
6 Tue. 5:50 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
7 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
8 Thu. 5:44 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
9 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd 12:23 pm
10 Sat. 5:47 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
11 Sun.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd
12 Mon. 7:45 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
13 Tue.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
14 Wed. 1:17 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
15 Thu.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
16 Fri. 11:02 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th 3:45 pm
17 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
18 Sun.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
19 Mon. 11:36 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
20 Tue.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
21 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
22 Thu. 12:28 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
23 Fri.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
24 Sat. 11:45 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st 8:21 pm
25 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
26 Mon. 8:50 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
27 Tue.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
28 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
29 Thu. 4:01 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
30 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
31 Sat. 9:25 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st

April Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sun.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd 5:49 am
2 Mon. 12:54 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
3 Tue.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
4 Wed. 2:46 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
5 Thu.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
6 Fri. 3:57 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
7 Sat.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	3rd 10:22 pm
8 Sun. 6:01 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
9 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
10 Tue. 10:47 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
11 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
12 Thu.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
13 Fri. 7:21 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
14 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
15 Sun. 7:11 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th 10:31 am
16 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
17 Tue.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
18 Wed. 8:00 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
19 Thu.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
20 Fri. 7:18 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
21 Sat.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
22 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
23 Mon. 3:56 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st 10:26 am
24 Tue.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
25 Wed. 10:11 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
26 Thu.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
27 Fri. 2:49 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
28 Sat.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
29 Sun. 6:25 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
30 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd 12:08 pm

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 2001 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, (pages 28, 30), ISBN 1-56718-953-9

# How does Thy Garden Grow?

by Linda Golubski • Blue Springs, MO



A friend from Texas asked me how I grow my African violets and other gesneriads. I live in a suburb of Kansas City, Missouri and my growing habits would be "different" from hers. I thought I would share my growing habits with you.

My plant room is one third of my rec room, which is mostly below ground level. The

floor in this part of the room is tiled rather than carpeted so I can wash it and keep the spilled soil and other stuff cleaned up easily. The temperature is rather easy for me to control and varies from about 68 degrees at its coldest to about 74 degrees in the heat of the summer with the air conditioner running. However, I do have one "COLD" corner which is on an outside wall. In winter the bottom shelf of this stand gets to about 64 degrees. My violets and other gesneriads rebel if I put them there. I found a solution to this problem. Cactus!

Along with my African violets, other gesneriads and orchids, I also grow about 100 cacti. They summer outside on a southern exposure deck, but must come inside in the fall. They don't mind the "cold" shelf and are just delighted not to shrivel up and die in the snow, ice and freezing temperatures outside. All the other plants in the room are more than willing to give up this space to them. The only problem is that the violets and gesneriads have to snuggle a little bit closer together than they'd like to, but they make room for the cacti.

For many years, I purchased soil from a member of our local club. As time went on and my collection kept getting larger and larger I knew I had to do something. (Does this sound familiar?) When my five gallon bucket of soil wouldn't let me get through two stands of repotting, I decided that I had to get a recipe and make my own soil. I asked several friends their recipes and settled on this simple one:

- 3 gallons Peter's Potting soil
- 2 gallons coarse perlite
- 1 gallon coarse vermiculite
- 1 cup horticultural grade charcoal
- 1 gallon HOT water to which 2 tablespoons of Malathion has been added

My husband is my mixer. I buy my perlite and vermiculite in 4 cubic yard bags and Jim stores the leftovers in fifty-five gallon trash cans in our garage. When he mixes the soil, he makes five batches at a time and that fills another fifty-five gallon trash can. Once mixed it "cooks" for one week unopened before I use it. He mixes twice a year - spring and fall. That lasts me all year.

**Note:** He mixes the soil outside so that the dust from the perlite and vermiculite, as well as the fumes from the Malathion dissipate and don't overwhelm him in a closed garage. He also wears a mask.

I have my own theories about water and fertilizer. I'm fortunate because in the town where I live, my water out of the tap has a pH factor of 6.5 to 6.9. How lucky is that! However, after attending many lectures about chlorine and other additives in the water, I did some investigating. Did you know that chlorine and other additives that are now used in our water do not dissipate after twenty-four hours of being exposed to the air? The municipal water departments want them to last indefinitely. My plants didn't seem to like this so I started thinking about my tropical fish. You can't use tap water on the fish without a dechlorinator added or they will die. Actually, I use a detoxifier rather than a dechlorinator. A detoxifier removes all the harsh chemicals in your water in seconds. Use two drops to a gallon of water. I use a brand called Kordon and the product is named Amquel Detoxifier (may be purchased at your local tropical fish store). The plants loved this! No more toxic chemicals for them to swallow and choke on. If you don't already use a detoxifier in your water, try it. I promise, you will see a difference.

Now, about fertilizers. I use several. I believe that even though I love spaghetti, if I ate it everyday I would get bored and wouldn't get all basic food groups that I should have. Plants are the same way. They need fruits and vegetables and an occasional piece of liver (fish emulsion) to keep them happy and healthy! The reason I use a number of fertilizers is that each one contains different trace elements that are also needed for healthy growth. Here is a list of fertilizers that I use and rotate each time I fill up my gallon water jugs. (I usually fill about 20 at a time.)

- Peter's 20-20-20 (the old version without all the urea)
- Volkman's 15-30-15
- Dyna Gro 7-9-5
- Plant Marvel
- Hill Country Violets & Nursery 12-36-14
- Fish Emulsion (any brand)

The rotation of these fertilizers works well for me. I use 1/8 teaspoon per gallon of warm water. If you noticed in my soil recipe, I don't put in any nutritional additives (lime, bone meal, etc.). This way I feed my plants whatever fertilizer I choose without the fear of burning them.

I use a constant feed system of watering. All of my violets and some of my gesneriads are on individual reservoirs. My starter plants, miniature sinningias and *Streptocarpus* are in trays with matting. My matting consists of solid sponge carpet padding covered with felt. I try to change and wash it every 6 weeks in a mild bleach water solution in the washing machine.

The matted trays and the reservoirs usually keep the humidity at about 50-60% in my plant room except in the winter. In the winter it drops to about 40%. I always seem to get "dry edges" on my other gesneriads in the winter. I guess they are like people. No matter how much lotion you put on, your skin still dries out in the winter.

I have six plant stands which hold twenty shelves of African violets, other gesneriads, orchids and cacti. I have

three shelves of just minis and semi-minis, two shelves of African violet species (just to keep me challenged) and five shelves of standard violets. The orchids get a shelf and the cacti get a shelf.

The rest of my plant room is 'other gesneriads'. My husband built all of my plant stands from design he saw in an old AVM. They work well. Two of them were custom built; one for my minis and semi-minis and the other for my miniature sinningias. The *Sinningia* stand is totally encased in plastic with the front being a flap/door. This stand also functions as my intensive care unit when a plant needs extra humidity to recuperate from "surgery".

The only complaints I hear from my plants is about my occasional neglect during convention and Christmas, times when they scream for a drink of water! Then my husband has to turn up the volume on the TV on his side of the rec room to drown out the screaming! It's then that I know it's time to spend some time with the "girls" as he refers to them.

Here are a few tricks and short cuts I have learned through the years:

Mineral Spirits removes the "sticky tape stuff" from the outside of your plastic pots.

If you soak your plastic pots and reservoirs for two days in a bleach water solution, you can just rinse them clean without scrubbing. Rinse thoroughly and let air dry for 24 hours before using again.

Make a ring around the soil under the leaves of a violet with regular, NOT anti-bacterial, Ivory Dish washing Liquid, and pour water into the soil to kill soil mealy bugs.

A couple dashes of cinnamon in your fish emulsion fertilized water will mask the odor.

Toothpaste will remove black magic marker lines from plastic pots.

And don't forget about the detoxifier in your fertilized water to remove the harsh chemicals and chlorine. I hope these tips will help you!

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## How To Avoid Boring Meetings

Congratulations! You have just been elected as the president of your African violet society. Now you get to "give" meetings rather than "take" them. If your instruction in this delicate art comes exclusively from observing all the other meetings in your life – don't be surprised if your gatherings are as ineffective and boring as all the others were.

Often the business part of the meeting is simply a vehicle for announcements which might be better said in a newsletter, or endless hassling over the details of projects that should be handled by a committee. Also, one of the simplest solutions for improving meeting performances is to start the meeting on time and end it on time.

Always prepare an agenda. You will have to analyze, organize, and condense the issues that you are going to cover. The unprepared meeting leader is most likely to be done in by

the fact that his or her listeners can think four times faster than the speaker can talk – and are likely to be distracted by delays or interruptions.

If necessary, ask the club secretary to condense the minutes of the meeting. The minutes should contain any motions made, who made them, and the outcome, but not the discussions that preceded them. Avoid endless details of reports and events. Lengthy minutes just reward the people who weren't at the last meeting and bore the people who were there.

Part of the obligation of leadership is to encourage people to participate, to feel as if their participation in a meeting made a difference. As president, you should never have to leave a meeting saying, "They did not want to listen".

*From CA Council News*

# For These Bay Staters, the Topic Was Light.... The Challenge of Growing in Natural Light

by Sharon Rosenzweig

I have always grown African violets in natural light. The growing area in my first house received morning sun. The next house was shaded and had very little sunlight. My current house has nothing but sun! As you would expect, my violets did best in the location with morning sun.

Growing African violets in natural light causes one to be preoccupied with the daily weather report. The overriding questions I find myself faced with each morning are:

- Will it be sunny today?
- Do I raise the cellular shades or leave them lowered?

Then there are the quirky days when it is raining in the morning and the sun comes out full force in the afternoon!

Growing in natural light can produce a myriad of problems: burn spots on leaves and flowers, bleached leaves and flowers, small flowers, tight centers, photo tropism (growing toward the source of light) and problems with symmetry – the leaves receiving more light will grow faster and larger. On

the positive side, there are no timers to worry about and no tubes to replace.

So, if you have no space for light stands, or find them unattractive, you can still have success growing in natural light if you follow some simple rules:

- If possible, select a window that receives morning sun, or has a tree outside to gently filter the sun.
- For southern or western exposures, use light filtering curtains or shades on bright, sunny days. Raise or open them on rainy cloudy days (beware of those aforementioned quirky days).
- Cut back on fertilizer during the hottest summer months.
- To prevent burn spots, be extra careful not to get water droplets on leaves.
- Rotate the plants 1/4 turn in the same direction every week to maintain symmetry.

## Cutting Light Time ... Successfully

by Susan Gimblet

We have an all-electric home. In October 1998, our local utility company performed an energy audit on our house. The purpose was to determine how we used electricity in the house and whether any efficiencies could be made.

As expected, heat was the single largest usage, and therefore cost. The second biggest usage was for the light stands used in growing African violets. We have two light stands built by my husband. One stand has two florescent fixtures and the other stand has three fixtures. In addition, there is a smaller, under the counter type fixture, used over the fish tank where I propagate leaves. Total, there are eleven florescent tubes. The tubes are a combination of cool white and warm white bulbs.

I had always grown my violets under lights with a timer set for twelve hours. Prior to a show, I followed the guidelines outlined in Pauline Bartholomew's book *Growing To Show*, increasing the lights one hour each week until I was at fifteen hours. This had worked very well and provided me with my share of award winning plants for our annual shows.

As an experiment, I decided to cut down on the number of hours that the lights were on each day. I changed the timers from a twelve hour spread to just ten hours. No half way measures for me! I decided to be a little drastic and make

what I considered a significant drop in light time! All other factors in growing my African violets remained the same. The lights continued at ten hours all winter and spring of 1998/1999. When it came time to increase the light time prior to the April 1999 Bay State Spring Show, I increased the lights one hour a week until I reached thirteen hours.

The results of my experiment were very rewarding! Even though I had reduced light time by two hours each day, my African violets still looked good. They were entered in the spring show and won Best in Show and Best Standard AVSA Collection! I decided to continue with this 'experiment' for another year. I continued to grow all my violets under lights that were on for only ten hours daily. My violets were entered in our spring show again this year and continued to win blue ribbons.

It has now been two years since I cut light time and I intend to continue with the lights on a ten hour time cycle.

The question is: Did I save money and kilowatts on the electric bill?

Now, that is another story

*From "Ye Bay Stater" publication of the Bay State AVS*



# AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager

## AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

### Deadlines

Jan/Feb issue	Nov 15	Jul/Aug issue	May 15
Mar/Apr issue	Jan 15	Sep/Oct issue	Jul 15
May/June issue	Mar 15	Nov/Dec issue	Sep 15

**Mechanicals & Rates:** One Column (3-5/16") Two Column (6-3/4")

### REGULAR ADVERTISING

AD SIZE - 3 5/16 IN WIDE	COMMERCIAL MEMBERS	ALL OTHERS
1 INCH	\$30	\$33
2 INCH	\$50	\$55
3 INCH	\$70	\$77
4 INCH	\$90	\$99
5 INCH TO 9 1/4 INCH	\$22.40 PER IN.	\$25.00 PER IN.
1/4 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$95	\$104.50
1/2 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$175	\$192.50
FULL PAGE BLK & WHITE	\$345	\$379.50
1/2 PAGE COLOR	\$475	\$522.50
FULL PAGE COLOR	\$595	\$654.50

Advertiser provides color separations.

**Special - Buy 5 ads and receive the 6<sup>th</sup> ad free when all 6 ads are paid in full in advance. All ads should be same size. Content of ad can change for each issue.**

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

15 word/\$15.00 Minimum. Each additional word \$1; series of numbers count as a word. Purchase 5 ads and receive the 6<sup>th</sup> ad free. All classified ads must be same text and paid for in advance. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. **Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section.**

### INTERNET WEB PAGE

Any advertiser who purchases six consecutive ads may have his business listed on the AVSA Web Page and also may have a "hot" link to his page if he provides a reciprocal link to the AVSA page. No process has yet been developed to place advertising on the Internet at this time.

Checks made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads - contact Advertising Manager. You need not be an AVSA member to advertise.

**Membership - \$30.00 per year - USA.** Make check payable to AVSA. Membership check should be provided separately from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

### VISA or MasterCard

AVSA now accepts VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save some money? Prepay for five consecutive ads either by check or charge, and receive the sixth ad free. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

### Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial or non-commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This rule is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than those for our commercial membership. Unless the advertiser is already a member of AVSA, he/she would not receive a copy of the AVM nor be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member	\$30.00
1" ad Non-Commercial	\$33.00

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$18.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White for Commercial Member	\$345.00
Full page Black & White for Non-Commercial Member	\$379.50

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$207.00 for ads.

### Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page Commercial Member	\$475.00
Non-Commercial	\$522.50
Full Page Commercial Member	\$595.00
Non-Commercial	\$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

### Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that third plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fund raiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, do you settle for fewer appearances?

Why not try out a classified ad to address your situation? The classified advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

### WHERE DO I SEND MY AD?

#### Regular Advertisements and Classified Advertisements

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager  
1825 W. Lincoln St.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 355-8020  
email: judycart@flash.net

Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.

# Coming Events



## March 2 & 3 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale  
Beardall Center, 800 Delaney Street  
Orlando, FL  
Mar 2 - noon - 4pm  
Mar 3 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Evelyn Briggs  
email <evbriggs@magicnet.net>

## March 2 - 4 - FLORIDA

Violet Patch of South Florida  
Coral Ridge Mall  
Oakland Park Blvd & Federal Hwy  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Info: Lisa Hemphill (954) 749 - 0781

## March 2 & 3 - TEXAS

Magic Knight Show/Sale  
Rolling Oaks Mall  
FM 1604 & Nacogdoches Rd  
San Antonio, TX  
Mar 2 - noon - 8pm  
Mar 3 - 10am - 8pm  
Info: (210) 566 - 2349

## March 3 & 4 - ARIZONA

Tucson AVS  
El Con Mall  
3601 E. Broadway Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ  
Mar 3 - 9am - 9pm  
Mar 4 - 9am - 5pm

## March 3 & 4 - ALABAMA

Montgomery AVS & Capitol City AVS  
Combined Show/Sale  
Southern Homes & Gardens  
US Hwy 231 North  
Montgomery, AL  
Mar 3 - 1pm - 5pm  
Mar 4 - 1pm - 4:30pm  
Info: Peg Phythyon (334) 567 - 5433



## March 9 - MINNESOTA

AVS Minnesota Show/Sale  
Har Mar Mall  
Snelling Ave & County Rd B  
Roseville, MN  
Mall Hours  
Info: (651) 646 - 5555

## March 10 & 11 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVS Show/Sale  
Houston Arboretum Nature Center  
4501 Woodway Drive (in Memorial Park)  
Houston, TX  
Mar 10 - 10am - 5pm  
Mar 11 - noon - 4pm  
Info: Meredith Hall  
email <MHALLAVSA@aol.com>

## March 10 & 11 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC Show/Sale  
Hernando Community Blood Bank  
1295 Cortez Blvd.  
Spring Hill, FL  
Mar 10 - 11am - 5pm  
Mar 11 - noon - 5pm  
Info: Fran Carson (352) 688 - 0407

## March 17 - COLORADO

Rocky Mountain AV Council Show/Sale  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
1005 York St  
Denver, CO  
Mar 17 - 1pm - 4:30pm  
Mar 18 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Nelly Levine (303) 423 - 6072

## March 17 & 18 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS 33rd Show/Sale  
Austin Area Garden Center  
2220 Barton Springs Rd  
Austin, TX  
Mar 17 - 10am - 4:30pm  
Mar 18 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Susan Storey (512) 392 - 3928

## March 23 & 24 - TEXAS

First AVS of Denton Show/Sale  
Erwin Hall  
First Presbyterian Church  
1114 W. University Drive  
Denton, TX  
Mar 23 - 1:30pm - 6pm  
Mar 24 - 10am - 4pm

## March 23 & 24 - NEW JERSEY

Central Jersey AVS Show/Sale  
First Baptist Church  
232 Main (Rt 79)  
Matawan, NJ  
Mar 23 - 5pm - 7pm  
Mar 24 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Dale Jasaitis (609) 298 - 7333  
email: Wand72@home.com

## March 23 & 24 - TENNESSEE

Memphis AVS Spring Show  
Memphis Botanic Gardens  
Goldsmith Civic Garden Center  
Memphis, TN  
Mar 23 - 9am - 6pm  
Mar 24 - 9am - 5pm  
Info: Marian Zoller (901) 372 - 0283

## March 24 & 25 - OHIO

Cincinnati AVS Show/Sale  
Eastgate Mall  
Exit 63B (Batavia) from I 275  
Mall Hours  
Info: Penny Winchman (859) 384 - 4437

## March 24 & 25 - ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Show/Sale  
Chicago Botanic Garden  
Lake Cook Rd, east of I-94  
Glencoe, IL  
Info: Susan Bradford (847) 740 - 7801

## March 24 - OREGON

Portland AVS Display/Sale  
Tabor Heights Methodist Church Annex  
6161 SE Stark  
Portland, OR  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771 - 5762

## March 24 & 25 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS Judged Show/Sale  
West Sayville Fire Department Hall  
Montauk Hwy & Atlantic Ave  
Mar 24 - 2pm - 5pm  
Mar 25 - noon - 5pm  
Donation \$1.50  
Info: Eileen Montgomery (631) 581 - 8116

## March 29 - 31 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS, First AVS of Dallas,  
First Nighter AVS  
Combined Show/Sale  
Richardson Square Mall  
Plano & Beltline  
Richardson, TX  
Hours: 10am - 9pm  
Info: Grace Davis (972) 278 - 0389

## March 30 & 31 - NEBRASKA

Lincoln AVS Show/Sale  
East Park Plaza Mall (movie entrance)  
60th & East "O" St.  
Lincoln, NE  
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 - 1478

## March 30 - April 1 - MINNESOTA

Lake Area Growers Show/Sale  
Har Mar Mall  
Co. Rd B & Snelling Ave  
Roseville, MN  
Mar 30 - 10am - 9pm  
Mar 31 - 10am - 6pm  
Apr 1 - 11am - 6pm  
Info: Jude Neumann (651) 433 - 2708

## March 30 & 31 - NEW JERSEY

Union County AVS 47th Show/Sale  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
559 Park Ave  
Scotch Plains, NJ  
Mar 30 - 6pm - 9pm  
Mar 31 - 10am - 4pm

## March 31 & April 1 - NEW YORK

Long Island AVS 47th Annual Show  
John A. Anderson Recreation Center  
111 North Oceanside Rd  
Rockville Centre, NY  
Mar 31 - 2pm - 5pm  
Apr 1 - noon - 5pm  
Info: Marilyn Daum (516) 379 - 6211

## March 31 - CONNECTICUT

Windsor AVS Judged Show  
Windsor Public Library  
Windsor, CT  
Hours: 9am - 3pm



**April 6 - 8 - IOWA**

Quad Cities AVS Show/Sale  
 Duck Creek Mall  
 Bettendorf, IA  
 Info: LuAnn Christenson (319) 355 - 0726  
 Email: xenson@mcleodusa.net

**April 7 & 8 - LOUISIANA**

Sundowners' AVS Show/Sale  
 Baton Rouge Garden Center  
 7950 Independence Blvd  
 Baton Rouge, LA  
 Apr 7 - 2pm - 6pm  
 Apr 8 - 11am - 4pm  
 Info: Fran Spear (225) 665 - 3686  
 Mary McFarland (225) 923 - 3337

**April 7 - TEXAS**

AVS of Beaumont Plant Sale  
 Central Mall  
 Port Arthur, TX  
 Hours: 10am - 5pm  
 Info: Cecile Mason (409) 385 - 3423

**April 7 & 8 - NEW YORK**

Capital District AVS Show/Sale  
 Albany Elks Club  
 25 South Allen Street  
 Albany NY  
 Apr 7 - 2:30pm - 5pm  
 Apr 8 - 11am - 3:30pm  
 Info: Esther Mason (518) 482 - 7851  
 Margaret Califano, Email: ecalifa1@nycap.rr.com

**April 7 & 8 - CANADA**

Edmonton AVS Show/Sale  
 Muttart Conservatory  
 Edmonton, Alberta  
 Info: Patricia Bell, Email: pmbell@home

**April 7 & 8 - LOUISIANA**

Jefferson AV Association AVSA Judged Show/Sale  
 Lakeside Shopping Center  
 3301 Veterans Blvd.  
 Metairie, LA  
 Apr 7 - 2pm - 9pm  
 Apr 8 - noon - 6pm  
 Info: Wynne Voorhees  
 Email: wvoorhee@bellsouth.net

**April 7 & 8 - NEW JERSEY**

AVC of Morristown Show/Sale  
 Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
 53 East Hanover St.  
 Morristown, NJ  
 Apr 7 - 1:30pm - 5pm  
 Apr 8 - 11am - 4pm  
 Info: Karen Cichocki (973) 579 - 7914

**April 7 & 8 - ILLINOIS**

Barrington Bloomers AVS Show/Sale  
 Chicago Botanic Garden  
 1000 Lake Cook Rd.  
 Glencoe, IL  
 Apr 7 - noon - 4pm  
 Apr 8 - 10am - 4pm  
 Info: Nikki Collard (847) 526 - 6055

**April 7 & 8 - NEW YORK**

AVS of Western New York Show/Sale  
 Galleria Mall  
 Walden Ave.  
 Cheektowaga, NY  
 Mall Hours

**April 7 & 8 - NEW MEXICO**

Albuquerque AVSC 33rd Annual Show/Sale  
 Garden Center of Albuquerque  
 10120 Lomas Blvd. NE  
 Albuquerque, NM  
 Apr 7 - 2pm - 5pm  
 Apr 8 - 10am - 4pm  
 Info: Agatha Garrison (505) 384 - 5026  
 Email: agatha18@juno.com

**April 11 - CALIFORNIA**

Town & Country AVS Judged Show/Sale  
 Redlands Church of Christ - Friendship Hall  
 1000 Roosevelt Rd.  
 Redlands, CA  
 Hours: 11am - 5pm  
 Info: Doris Ande (909) 686 - 9909

**April 14 & 15 - MICHIGAN**

Michigan State AVSA Display/Sale  
 Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
 1800 Dixboro Rd  
 Ann Arbor, MI  
 Apr 14 - 10am - 4:30pm  
 Apr 15 - 11am - 2pm  
 Info: Loreen Callentine (517) 345 - 9053

**April 20 - 22 - MISSOURI**

Unpredictable AVC Show/Sale  
 Blue Ridge Mall  
 4200 Blue Ridge Blvd.  
 Kansas City, MO  
 Apr 20 - 5pm - 9pm  
 Apr 21 - 10am - 9pm  
 Apr 22 - 11am - 5pm

**April 21 & 22 - NEW YORK**

AVS of Rochester 52nd Annual Show/Sale  
 Perinton Square Mall  
 6720 Pittsford @ Palmyra Rd.  
 Perinton, NY  
 Apr 21 - 2pm - 6pm  
 Apr 22 - 11am - 5pm  
 Info: Irwin Wagman (716) 381 - 6384  
 Email: IrwinWag@aol.com

**April 21 - CANADA**

First Halifax AVS Show/Sale  
 Holiday Inn Harbourview  
 Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
 Canada  
 Hours: 1pm - 4:30pm  
 Info: Julie Wiseman (902) 864 - 3184  
 Email: cliffww@accesscable.net

**April 21 & 22 - MISSOURI**

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council  
 46th Annual Show/Sale  
 Missouri Botanical Garden  
 4344 Shaw  
 St. Louis, MO  
 Both Days: 9am - 5pm  
 Info: Fran Russom (314) 647 - 5892

**April 27 & 28 - NEW JERSEY**

Bergen County AVS Show/Sale  
 Old Reformed Church  
 Washington & Madison Avenues  
 Dumont, NJ  
 Apr 27 - 3pm - 9pm  
 Apr 28 - 9am - 3pm  
 Info: Lee Borey (201) 934 - 7486

**April 27 - 29 - VIRGINIA**

Tidewater AVS 19th Annual Show/Sale  
 Norfolk Botanical Gardens  
 Norfolk, VA  
 Info: Carol Van (757) 851 - 2543  
 Lynda Fairchild (757) 851 - 3449  
 Email: frank4lyn@aol.com

**April 27 & 28 - VIRGINIA**

Richmond AVS Show/Sale  
 Virginia Center Commons Mall  
 Richmond, VA  
 Both Days: 10am - 9pm  
 Info: Bill Schmidt (804) 266 - 6157

**April 27 - 29 - MINNESOTA**

North Star AV Council AVSA Judged Show/Sale  
 Northtown Mall  
 CR10 (Old Hwy 10) & University Ave NE  
 Blaine, MN  
 Mall Hours  
 Info: Sandy Officer (612) 835 - 8603

**April 28 - WASHINGTON**

Seattle AVS Show/Sale  
 Center for Urban Horticulture  
 3501 NE 41st St.  
 Seattle, WA  
 Hours: Noon - 5pm  
 Info: Jean Chin (206) 725 - 6494  
 Austin Grevious (206) 282 - 2748

**April 28 & 29 - CONNECTICUT**

Naugatonic AVS Show/Sale  
 Boothe Memorial Park Hall  
 Main Street (Putney)  
 Stratford, CT  
 Apr 28 - 1pm - 4pm  
 Apr 29 - 10am - 4pm  
 Info: Donald Goodwin (860) 283 - 5311

**April 28 & 29 - PENNSYLVANIA**

Lower Bucks County AVS Show/Sale  
 Silver Lake Nature Center  
 1306 Bath Rd.  
 Bristol, PA  
 Info: Craig Reed (215) 368 - 7195

**April 28 - MISSOURI**

Heart of Missouri Show/Sale  
 Trinity Presbyterian Church  
 1600 W. Rollins Rd.  
 Columbia, MO  
 Hours: 9am - 2pm  
 Info: Dorothy Anderson (573) 442 - 4798  
 Email: dander02@coin.org

**April 28 & 29 - NEW YORK**

Copper City AVS Show  
 Knights of Columbus Hall  
 Turin Rd. (Rt. 26N)  
 Rome, NY  
 Apr 28 - 2pm - 7pm  
 Apr 29 - Noon - 5pm  
 Info: Robin Yager (315) 337 - 9904  
 Email: robinayager@prodigy.net

**April 28 & 29 - CANADA**

Monctonian AVS Show/Sale  
 MacArthur's Nursery  
 232 McLaughlin Drive  
 Moncton, NB, Canada  
 Apr 28 - 2pm - 9pm  
 Apr 29 - 9am - 3pm  
 Info: Nancy Steeves (506) 855 - 3515

**April 28 & 29 - NEW YORK**

The Saintpaulia Society of Long Island  
 St. Mary of the Isle Parish Hall  
 Park Ave & Monroe Blvd  
 Long Beach, New York  
 Apr 28 - 3pm - 7pm  
 Apr 29 - 9am - 3pm  
 Info: Edward Bradford (718) 847 - 9854



**April 28 - ARKANSAS**

North Central Arkansas AVS Show/Sale  
Jacksonville Community Center  
5 Municipal Dr.  
Jacksonville, AR  
Hours: 9am - 4pm  
Info: Danny Tidwell (501) 726 - 4803  
Email: twell52@hotmail.com

**May 4 & 5 - ILLINOIS**

Late Bloomers AVC Show/Sale  
Freeport Lincoln Mall  
1265 West Galena Avenue  
Freeport, IL  
Info: Mable Lewis (608) 966 - 3853

**May 4 - NEW JERSEY**

Garden State AVC Show/Sale  
Princeton Market Fair  
3535 US Hwy. No. 1  
Princeton, NJ  
Mall Hours  
Info: Bob Hughes (732) 780 - 3398

**May 4 - CANADA**

Stampede City AVS Show  
Northland Village Mall  
5111 Northland Dr. NW  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
Mall Hours  
Info: Winston Goretsky (403) 241 - 8300

**May 5 - CANADA**

Vancouver Violet & Gesneriad Society Show/Sale  
VanDusen Gardens, Floral Hall  
Oak & 37th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC, Canada  
Hours: 1pm - 4pm  
Info: mlanders@paralynx.com

**May 5 & 6 - CALIFORNIA**

Carlsbad AVS 6th Annual Judged Show/Sale  
Plaza Camino Real Mall  
Carlsbad, CA  
May 5 - noon - 5pm  
May 6 - 11am - 5pm  
Info: Patty Ragan (310) 372 - 1771  
Email: plrbkldy579@cs.com

**May 4 - 6 - NEW YORK**

AVS of Syracuse 48th annual Show/Sale  
Shoppingtown Mall  
3649 Erie Blvd. East  
Syracuse, NY  
May 4 - noon - 9:30pm  
May 5 - 2pm - 9:30pm  
May 6 - 11am - 6pm

**May 5 & 6 - CONNECTICUT**

Silvermine AVS Show/Sale  
Nature Center for Environmental Activities  
10 Woodside Lane

Westport, CT

May 5 - 1:30pm - 5pm  
May 6 - noon - 4pm  
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570  
Email: SYLNPHIL@aol.com

**May 5 & 6 - MISSOURI**

Sho-Me AVC Show/Sale  
Loose Park Garden Center  
5200 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Kansas, MO  
May 5 - 10am - 3pm  
May 6 - 10am - 2pm  
Info: Julie Fox (816) 532 - 4258  
Email: jewel101@earthlink.net

**May 5 & 6 - WISCONSIN**

Oshkosh AVS 21st Annual Show/Sale  
Park Plaza Mall & Office Center  
Downtown Oshkosh-On-the-Water  
May 5 - 10am - 5pm  
May 6 - noon - 4:30pm  
Info: Kevin Degner (920) 426 - 3764  
Cathy Heider (920) 685 - 5262

**May 5 & 6 - CALIFORNIA**

San Joaquin AVS Display/Sale  
Sherwood Mall  
5508 Pacific Ave.  
Stockton, CA  
Info: Pat Soares (209) 823 - 4627

**May 5 & 6 - CALIFORNIA**

AVS of South Bay Show/Sale  
Westgate Mall  
1600 Saratoga Ave  
San Jose, CA  
May 5 - 2pm - 9pm  
May 6 - 10am - 5pm  
Info: Irene Thomas (650) 369 - 3452

**May 5 & 6 - OHIO**

AVS of Dayton 6th Annual Show/Sale  
Cox Arboretum  
West Carrolton, OH  
May 5 - 10am - closing  
May 6 - Noon - 4pm  
Info: JoAnne Brown ((513) 777 - 7041  
Pat Hancock (513) 777 - 2524  
Dorothy Rittenhouse (937) 866 - 8006

**May 5 - CALIFORNIA**

Ventura County AVS Show/Sale  
Pacific View Mall  
Mill Rd. & Main St.  
Ventura, CA  
Hours: 10am - 6pm  
Info: Lisa Martinez  
Email: lisabear333@hotmail.com

**May 10 - 12 - OHIO**

Violets & Friends Show/Sale  
Miami Valley Centre Mall  
Piqua, OH  
May 10 - 1pm - 9pm  
May 11 & 12 - 10am - 9pm  
Info: Dixie Gunsaulies (937) 653 - 5041

**May 10 - CANADA**

Club Violettes Longueuil  
Hotel Radisson Longueuil  
999 de Séigny  
Longueuil, Quebec  
Canada  
Hours: Noon - 8pm  
Info: Michel Paradis (450) 928 - 8097

**May 11 & 12 - OHIO**

Parmatown AVC Show/Sale  
Parmatown Mall  
7899 W. Ridgewood Dr.  
Parma, Ohio  
May 11 - 9am - 9pm  
May 12 - 9am - 5pm  
Info: Martha Bell (330) 483 - 3546  
(440) 238 - 1400

**May 12 - CALIFORNIA**

Fancy Bloomers AVS Mother's Day Sale  
Coddington Mall  
Guernville Rd. @ Hwy 101  
Santa Rosa, CA  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Byron Borck (707) 527 - 8362

**May 13 & 14 - CALIFORNIA**

Foothill AVS Show/Sale  
Westfield Shoppingtown  
West Covina, CA  
Info: Chris Hedberg (626) 797 - 7525



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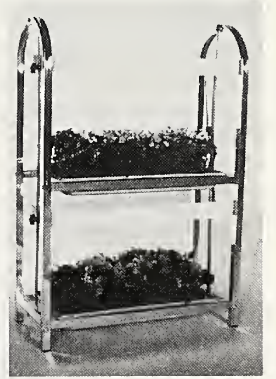
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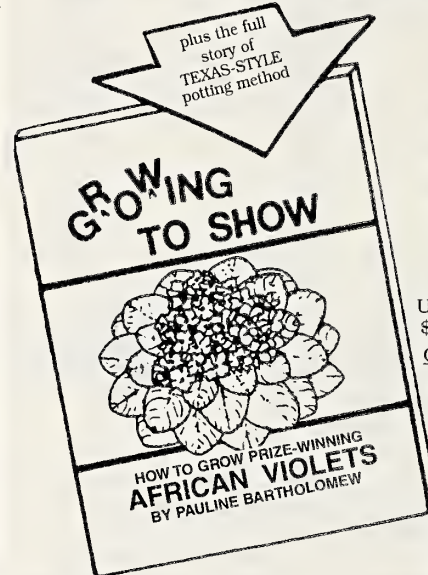
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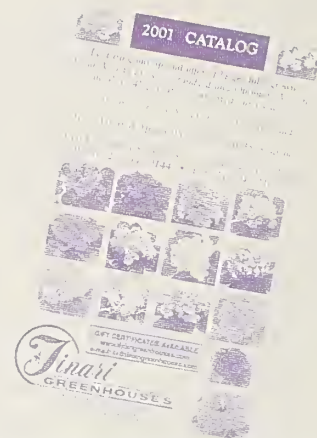
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# African Violet

*The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

May • June 2001

Volume 54

Number 3



# AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

FOR ACCURATE SERVICE, SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

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Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$20, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$22.50; Commercial USA \$32; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

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**AFFILIATES:** For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, P. O. Box 646, Clintwood, VA 24228. E-mail promers22@hotmail.com

**SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Patricia Sutton, 1707 S. 77 E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74112. E-mail sutpa01@worldnet.att.net

**AVSA OFFICE:** Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@earthlink.net

**BEST VARIETIES:** HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

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**BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND:** Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1958.

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND:** Send contributions to Helen Blanton, 622 Riverside, St. Charles, MO 63303.

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**ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS:** Send to Editor.

**Please Note: Deadlines** - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

**Coming Events Deadlines:** - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. judycart@flash.net

**ADVERTISING DEADLINES:** Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

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**MVL SUPPLEMENTS:** will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Lynn Lombard, Master Variety List Chairman, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

**MVL COMPUTER DISKETTES:** 1998 MVL - \$12.50. Updates (when available) - \$5.00. For computer compatibility requirements, please write Beaumont office.

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**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE:** AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

**PLANT REGISTRATION:** Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

**RESEARCH:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Charles Cole, P.O. Box 2150, Bryan, TX 77806.

**SHOW ENTRY TAGS:** 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

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# African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

May • June

Volume 54

Number 3

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

# President's Message



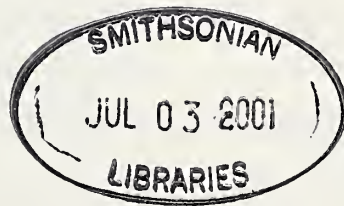
Dear AVSA Members,

The convention is less than a month away. I expect to see many of you there. The reports I have received indicate a nice attendance. If, by chance, you failed to register, do it now. The cost of the late registration will be worth it! Try to take all the extra cash you can because this is that "once a year" opportunity to get all the new varieties firsthand. You will obtain plants that are not readily found elsewhere, and at the same time, you will be supporting our commercial members.



This will be my final message to you as your president. Thank you for your support during my term of office. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve in this capacity. Please continue to support the officers, AVSA Board, and all the committees, especially the Booster Fund, Building Fund, and Boyce Edens Research Fund. Because of your generosity in the past two years, the AVSA office has a new copy machine, and work is underway to microfilm the plant registration files. This is funded by your donations to the Booster Fund. Taxes and upkeep on the AVSA office, including a new heat/air system have been, for the most part, as a result of your contributions to the Building Maintenance Fund. There are several research projects that are funded by your contributions to the Boyce Edens Research Fund. The funds are very important to AVSA. We owe a special thanks to James Rubottom, Jim Owens, and the Internet Committee for the beautiful new website that just keeps getting better every day!

Thanks again for your support, and I hope to see many of you in Chicago.



Happy growing,

Bill Foster  
AVSA President

# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email [rrumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rrumsey@earthlink.net)

The 2001 AVSA Convention is at the end of this month in Chicago. Registrations have been coming into the AVSA office at a very fast pace, so I know I'll be seeing many of you standing in front of the AVSA sales table this year.

I've been hearing so many wonderful comments about the new AVSA web site. Stop by and have a look at <[www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org)>.

If your club has a publication that provides interesting information on growing African violets, please put me on your mailing list. As fewer members have time to write articles, I turn to the publications of our affiliate clubs. Remember, if you have an article idea in mind, you do not have to be a professional writer! All articles are edited, and our readers enjoy learning about other experiences and growing methods.

With summer just around the corner, we're doing our bit to see that you and your violets have a successful, worry-free vacation. **Anne Tinari** shares her methods for plant survival when you have to be away from home for any length of time. Read "Violet Vacation Vitals" on page 46.

**Kevin Denger** explains his method for "Getting the Most From a Leaf Cutting" on page 54. The accompanying photo shows quite clearly the baby violets grown from the top third of a leaf!

On page 40 you'll find the results of another research

project, "Cold Water Damage in African Violets", by **Larry W. Barnes** of Texas A & M University made possible by your contributions to the Boyce Edens Research Fund.

**Neil Lipson** has contributed to the AVM again, this time on the subject of "Soil pH and Fertilizers". Read Neil's article on page 16.

The Chicago convention will bring another "changing of the guard", as **Bill Foster** completes his term as President of AVSA and **Jack Wilson** takes office as our new President. Jenny and I want to thank Bill for all of the support and guidance he has given the AVSA office staff during the last two years. He's been a joy to work with, always there when we need him, dispensing advice and guidance with a sense of humor. (And, I'm sure that Paula will be glad when we stop calling their house so often!)

We look forward to working more closely with Jack, who has been very supportive and encouraging as our First Vice President.

Jenny and I are very excited that **Valerie Ryden**, General Manager of Becker Printing, publisher of the AVM, will be joining us in Chicago for a few days. Valerie has been the Production Manager of this magazine for many years, and I've learned a great deal from working closely with her.

See you in Chicago!

## Packing for Chicago

The weather at this time of the year should be ideal. The average high temperature is around 75°, and the average low is around 53°. Sunrise will be at 5:15 to 5:20 a.m., with sunset at 8:15 to 8:20 p.m. There is about a 60% chance of

sunshine (clear or partly cloudy).

Just remember that those temperatures are average, and could vary by 10° or more. You might need a light jacket, especially if you are going out in the evening.

## Chicago Friday Night Fun

The ghost of Mrs. O'Leary's cow, of Chicago fire fame, visited Omaha last year extending an invitation for AVSA to meet in Chicago for the 2001 convention. To honor that much maligned, black and white Holstein, we are suggest-

ing that everyone attending the Friday night banquet, dress in casual and comfortable black and white clothes to underscore the color scheme of the convention.

## ATTENTION AFFILIATES AND JUDGES

- For your affiliate club to be included in the September AVM supplement, please make sure your dues are paid and that we have the name and address of your current President.
- Judges, your judge's certificate and your AVS dues MUST BE CURRENT if you are to be listed in the September AVM supplement.

**DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN THIS SUPPLEMENT IS JULY 1ST, 2001. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## How to ...

# Propagate *Streptocarpus*

### Step 1: Cut off a section of the leaf.

Using scissors, cut off a section of healthy leaf. It's best to use a leaf that's mature, but not too old. Leaves that show a lot of veining are best (you'll see why later).

### Step 2: Remove the midrib from the leaf.

Using a sharp knife or razor, remove and discard the center vein, or midrib, from the leaf section. If the leaf is very large, you may even trim away some of the outer edges to make it smaller.

### Step 3: Make a "slot" in the rooting medium.

Make a slot or "furrow" the rooting medium, into which the leaf section can be placed – we like to use an old ruler to do this. Be sure that your rooting mix is very light and porous – ours is one part Pro-mix (a peat and perlite mix) and three parts coarse vermiculite. The mix should be moist, but not soggy.

### Step 4: Firmly place leaf section into rooting mix.

Place the leaf section, "like a slice of bread in a toaster" into rooting mix. Place about 1/4" deep, and firm-in the soil around the leaf edge. Be sure to label the pot with the name of the variety being propagated.

### Step 5: Development of plantlets from leaf cutting.

Numerous plantlets will develop along the bottom edge of the leaf section. More densely veined leaves usually will produce more plantlets. Not that each single leaf is actually a separate plant (i.e. don't look for "pairs" of leaves). Plantlets will begin to be produced 6-8 weeks after rooting the leaf, but we wait 4-6 months until potting them up.

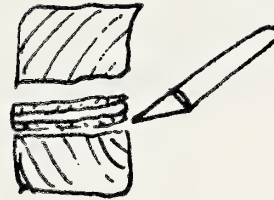
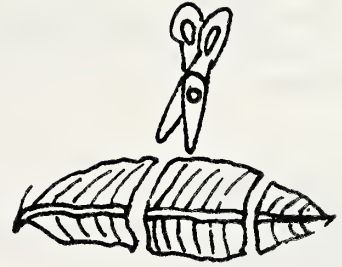
### Step 6: Separate plantlet from "mother" leaf.

When plantlets are large enough that you're comfortable handling them, they can be removed from the original leaf. In a light rooting mix, they should be easy to remove and separate from each other. Remember, each leaf is a plant, you don't need to have multiple leaves at this point.

### Steps 7 and 8: Potting individual plantlets.

Make a small hole in your regular soil mix (again, a light, soilless mix is recommended). Push the plantlet down into this hole, so that about 1/4 of the original plantlet is beneath the soil surface. Firm the soil around the plantlet. Lightly water the soil. If the plantlet has few roots, or otherwise seems fragile, you may put it into a clear, covered container or plastic baggie for the first few weeks. Once it becomes established, growth will be quite rapid. Now, if there were only enough space to grow them all!

STEP 1



STEP 2

STEP 3



STEP 4

STEP 5



STEP 6

STEPS 7 & 8



*From VioletsFun Photo Journal*

# Question Box



**Ralph Robinson**  
P.O. Box 9  
Naples, NY 14512  
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**Dorothy Kosowsky**  
712 Cunningham Dr.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
email: [dot3joe@earthlink.net](mailto:dot3joe@earthlink.net)

By the time that this is read, spring will have arrived. We'll be preparing for this year's convention in Chicago, and the long, cold, winter (and our astronomical heating bills) should be only a memory. For those who decided to save on heating costs by lowering the household thermostat, you probably discovered that this had more of an effect on your comfort than that of your violets. They may grow more slowly, but foliage may be more lush and blooms are more vibrant and longer lasting. Contrary to popular belief, African violets actually prefer cooler, rather than warmer conditions. The species *Saintpaulia*, though from tropical latitudes, are most commonly found at higher elevations and similarly cool places. So next winter, when heating prices rise, and household temperatures fall, don't worry about the welfare of your violets – chances are that you'll feel cold before they do.

As is always the case, we are far too busy to reply to mail (or e-mail), though we do read all of it. Should you want a personal reply, we are more than willing to answer phone calls made during our normal business hours (12-5 pm EST), since we can work and talk at the same time. For those with access to the internet, we can be reached at [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com) or via our web-site at [www.robsviolet.com](http://www.robsviolet.com). The web-site also contains a wealth of cultural information.

**QUESTION:** *We plan to do some more shopping and then go out to dinner later. Can I leave the violets in the car while we do this?*

**ANSWER:** Since we sell plants from our shop, this is a question that we're asked on almost a daily basis by our customers. Our standard answer is "treat your plants like you would a pet or a small child – if you wouldn't leave them behind in the car for that long, neither should you leave your plants". If it's too hot to leave a child in a car, for example, it's likely too hot for your plants, and your plants can "catch a chill" as easily as could a small child.

Having said that, don't be terrified of transporting plants during the summer or winter months. We frequently travel

hundreds, even thousands, of miles with our plants, and ship them all over the world. So long as they are well packaged, there should be little problem in taking them along with you. Even a closed paper bag will retain enough heat to keep the plant warm during the short time it takes for you to walk to the car. If it's really cold, have the plant packaged in a heavier cardboard box and/or have the car "warmed up". So long as your car has a functioning heater, and plants are boxed, cold temperatures should never be an excuse for not traveling with plants. If traveling on a hot day, keep the plants away from direct sunlight, which can bake plants, even when inside a box. Otherwise, so long as you can tolerate the conditions inside your car, so will your plants.

A final, cautionary note, which we've learned from personal experience. When using your car's heater or air conditioner, don't place your plants, even if boxed, directly against heating or cooling vents. Plants inside a box placed up against a heating vent can be "baked", while the box can keep warm air from reaching the other areas of the vehicle, keeping other plants too cold. Move boxes at least a few inches away from vents to keep them from getting too hot or cold, and allow some movement of the warm or cool air.

**QUESTION:** *I plan to use African violets as favors at my wedding banquet. They look so pretty in those terra cotta pots. Do you ship them this way? If not, how would you suggest that I repot them into clay pots?*

**ANSWER:** This is a question we've been asked dozens of times since Martha Stewart began showing them potted this way in her magazine and on her television show. First, even though Martha may prefer the look of clay pots for all of her plants, most serious hobbyists have found that plastic pots are both easier to use and better for the violets. Commercial sellers of violets almost universally use plastic pots for the same reasons. In addition, very few commercial growers sell or ship violets in clay pots because of their costliness and weight (and the damage they would likely do to fragile violets when "bounced around" in the mail).

If plastic looks unattractive to you, and you'd like a more natural or decorative look for a special occasion, there are easier solutions than repotting all of those violets. Repotting not only is messy and time-consuming, but there's always the risk of damaging the plant in the process. One solution would be to simply place the plastic pot inside of a slightly larger clay pot, with the outer pot acting as a "sleeve". If you'd like to do something more elaborate, try covering the pot with a colored foil or wallpaper. Using an empty pot, make foil or paper "molds", into which the potted plants can then be placed. Should you then want to add touches like ribbons or name tags, go for it. The only limitation is your imagination. Whatever you do, your guests will be happy with their gift – blooms are really the only decoration a violet needs.

**QUESTION:** *I have a 24" long window box in my kitchen window and would like to grow violets or some other blooming plant in it. I'd also like red flowers. Do you have any suggestions on what would grow best?*

**ANSWER:** This is a question we received by phone just yesterday. Our reply was that African violets would likely not be a good candidate, especially since they are intended to be grown together in the same box. For violets to grow well, they need their "own space" – they grow best in their own pot and don't like to be crowded together with other plants. Trailing violets, particularly standard-size trailers, might be a possibility, since they are naturally spreading plants and might be able to fill such a large space.

Our suggestion was to use some other gesneriad. In this case, episcias might be ideal. To begin with, red (or orange-red) is the most common flower color. Even better, many varieties have bright pink or red foliage! Because they so readily produce stolons, and are such fast, vigorous growers, they also can fill a large space very quickly and fully. They do prefer warmer conditions, and might sulk a bit if placed up against a cold window in the winter. Our caller was warned about this. They would love the extra humidity of the kitchen, though. We advised her to use a very light, porous, soil-less potting mix since, like violets, episcias don't like to have soggy feet. She was also warned to be careful in watering the plants when first potted in the window box, since this is a large container and it would take some time for the plant's roots to grow into so much soil. The caller had successfully grown violets in the same window before, so the light would be sufficient for episcias. With a little TLC, it should make quite a beautiful display.

**QUESTION:** *The blossoms of some multicolor varieties that I grow frequently turn a single, solid color, especially during the summer when it gets quite hot in my growing area. I know that the high temperatures are likely causing the blossoms to do this. I'd like to keep the variety, but how do I propagate it when the mother plant itself is not true?*

**ANSWER:** This can be a problem with many of the prettier varieties with multicolor blooms. One variety of ours, 'Rob's Tippy Toe', is an example. It's a very pretty miniature plant with double white and blue stars, and is one of our best sellers because of this. Unfortunately, many of them will turn solid blue during the heat of the summer. Once this happens, propagating from these untrue plants is futile, since most, or all, of the plantlets that will be produced will likely also not be true. To be sure we are always producing plants that will bloom true, we use only leaves from plants blooming in the proper colors and select leaves with light green backs.

Usually (though not always), plants of multicolor varieties that have darker leaves will have darker blooms, and will have lighter-colored blooms if leaves are lighter-colored. Because the problem (at least here) is with the blossoms going solid blue, not solid white, we want to avoid selecting leaves that are darker. This means avoiding those leaves with any amount of "red" backing to the leaf blade or coloring to the petiole (leaf stem). The less dark coloring, the better. Leaves having light green to white backs and light-colored petioles are much more likely to produce plantlets that will also have lighter colored leaves and lighter colored (more white in this case) flowers. If blooms are too white, and show too little of another color, then try selecting leaves showing some darkness to the leaf blade or petiole. This will more likely produce plantlets showing more of the darker colors in the blossoms.

**QUESTION:** *When reading through catalogs, I see the terms "single", "semidouble", and "double" when referring to flowers. Could you explain the difference?*

**ANSWER:** All of the Saintpaulia species have five-lobed, "single" flowers. This was the case for all of the very early hybrids also. Most of these "single" flowers tend to drop from the blossom stem prematurely (before the blossom fades). Those that don't are referred to as "stick-tite" singles. "Double" blooms are those possessing a full additional set, or layer, of petals. Sometimes you'll see the terms "fully" double or even "triple" being used to describe blossoms with far more than ten petals. "Semidouble", being neither single nor double, simply refers to blooms having between six and nine petals. Often, a sixth petal is barely visible, or not visible at all – these are sometimes also called "genetically semidouble" by hybridizers, since they appear to be single, but are "stick-tite" due to an often unseen sixth petal. Though not all semidoubles and doubles are "stick-tite", the additional petals generally mean that they are.

See you in Chicago!

*Name of columnist replying is in bold print*

# For Beginners



**Al & Cathy Cornibe**  
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Here are some wonderful tips that we've gathered over the years. Remember, when trying anything new, experiment on only one or two plants until you see the results. What works perfectly for one grower may not work for another.

## **START OFF RIGHT**

Start with healthy plants that are good growers and good bloomers. Visit African violet shows to find out which varieties do well in your area.

## **ISOLATION**

Isolate all new plants and any plants that are returning from a show for at least one month. If possible, keep these plants in a separate room that is as far away as possible from your other violets.

## **PESTICIDE HOTLINE**

Your pesticide-related questions can be answered for free by the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network. You can call them seven days a week, from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Pacific time), at (800) 858-7378. Or, you can contact them at [nptn@ace.orst.edu](mailto:nptn@ace.orst.edu).

## **DON'T DROWN YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS**

Many violets are killed each year from over-watering. African violets do better if they are kept moist, not too wet or too dry.

## **MEALY BUGS**

If you see light-colored specks on leaves and stems, or white cottony masses, you might have mealy bugs. When there are only a few, use a cotton swab, dipped in rubbing alcohol, to kill and remove them. Although we've never tried

it ourselves, some growers have reported success spraying with a solution of half water and half rubbing alcohol when they had a heavier infestation.

## **BAKING SOIL**

Before you use it, bake your soil to kill any nematodes, weed seeds, fungi, and insects that might be in it. This is easy to do. First, preheat your oven to 180 degrees. Then place a pan of soil, with a thermometer in the center, into the oven. When the thermometer reads 180 degrees, reduce the oven setting to 175 degrees and continue baking for another thirty minutes.

## **SOIL THAT STAYS TOO WET**

Put a layer of coarse perlite, pieces of broken clay pots, or other materials at the bottom of your pots before you add the soil. This provides more oxygen for the roots and helps the soil to drain faster. A little perlite can also be added to the soil if needed.

## **FLEA COLLARS**

Rose Marie Yeates wrote us that she uses flea collars, cut into pieces, between her violets. We've also used these for years as a safe method to repel or kill insects. The largest size is usually the best bargain.

## **DIRTY POTS**

Soak dirty pots overnight in a solution of water, bleach, and liquid detergent so you won't need to do as much scrubbing to get them clean.

Sue Haffner shared that Polident is not just for dentures anymore. Put a few tablets in a bucket of very hot water then add the dirty pots. You can also add a few drops of liquid soap.



## **GROOMING AFRICAN VIOLETS**

Groom your plants when you are relaxed and well rested. Leaves can get broken easily if you are rushed or tired. Removing all of the dead leaves and spent blossoms will make your violets look so much better.

## **LEAVES FOR PROPAGATION**

Select only healthy, crisp leaves for propagation. Sometimes when you buy or receive a leaf, it is wilted. For best results, revive it as soon as possible. To revive a wilted leaf, either let it float in a dish of warm (not hot) water or place it between two moist paper towels until it becomes crisp again.

## **HIGH HUMIDITY**

Many growers get larger, longer-lasting blossoms and healthier foliage by increasing the humidity in their growing area. This can be accomplished by using a humidifier or by placing trays of water near your plants.

## **BLACK FLIES**

Years ago, one of our African Violet Magazines listed this mix as a remedy for black flies. Dissolve the following in one gallon of warm water and use it as a drench once a month or more often, if necessary. It said that "your plants will grow and flies will go".

- 1 tablespoon household ammonia
- 1 tablespoon saltpeter
- 1 teaspoon Epsom salts
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

## **VARIEGATED FOLIAGE**

If your variegated African violet starts to turn completely green, either move it to a cooler location, such as the lowest shelf on a plant stand, or switch to a fertilizer with less nitrogen.

## **LOPSIDED AFRICAN VIOLETS**

Since violets naturally grow towards the light, you can avoid lopsided plants by rotating them.

## **TO REDUCE GAPS IN SYMMETRY**

It is easy to remove gaps between the leaves of an African violet. Gently move the leaves to reduce the gap, then hold the leaves in place with plastic toothpicks, stirrers, or pick-up-sticks (sold at toy shops) placed in the soil. If you move the leaves when the plant is a little on the dry side, they won't be as brittle and easy to break. If the gap is a large one, move the leaves a small amount every few days.

## **MOTHBALLS**

Is a window open near your violets? If so, insects can come in through the screen. To discourage these unwanted visitors, put some mothballs and pieces of a flea collar in a container on the windowsill.

## **WATER**

Don't water African violets with cold water, it can cause stress to the roots and damage the foliage. Also, don't use softened water, it is not recommended for violets.

## **WEED KILLERS**

Close all the windows before you spray a weed killer outside; the fumes can harm African violets. Don't go near your violets until after you have bathed and changed clothes.

## **FERTILIZERS**

Don't fertilize African violets when their soil is too dry or when they have been newly repotted. Fertilizing at these times can burn their leaves.

## **ROUGH PLASTIC POTS**

An emery board can be used to smooth away the rough spots on the tops of new plastic pots. A nail clipper works well to clip off the excess plastic from the bottom of the pots.

## **ORGANIC SPRAY**

The following is a recipe for an organic spray that reportedly kills mites, aphids, and foliar mealy bugs. Mix 2 tablespoons of coriander in 1 quart of water, boil and strain. Add 1/4 teaspoon of anise oil (pure or artificial), plus 1/2 teaspoon of detergent. Spray on plants. (We haven't tried this yet. If you have, please let us know the results.)

## **AN OVER-WATERED AFRICAN VIOLET**

Place the wet pot down on several layers of dry newspapers or paper towels to absorb the excess water. If necessary, repeat the process again.

## **TEMPORARY GREENHOUSE**

A temporary greenhouse is easy to make whenever you need more moisture for a leaf or plant. Make a tent over the violet with saran wrap or a baggie. You can use plastic sticks or stirrers in the soil of the pot to support the tent. Plastic cups and plastic shoe boxes also make wonderful greenhouses.

## **WICKS**

Keep a close watch on your African violets that are wicked, especially during the summer. Hot temperatures can cause wicks to dry out. If a plant looks wilted, first check the soil to see if it is dry. Then check the reservoir to make sure that it has water in it. If it does, check the wick to make sure that it is still wet and working properly.

## **POWDERY MILDEW**

Avoid powdery mildew by eliminating the conditions that it thrives under. When African violets are touching, humidity is too high, temperatures are fluctuating, and circulation is poor. These conditions are ideal for powdery mildew.

Lysol disinfectant spray may be used to kill powdery

mildew. Do not hold the can too close to the plant while you are spraying because the spray is extremely cold. A fine mist is sufficient. More than one application may be needed.

### MOIST-RITES

Before using a moist-rite, inspect the holes in the walls to be sure that they are not plugged. Our plants grow better in moist-rites when we use a layer of coarse sand at the bottom, followed by a layer of perlite, and then our regular soil mix.

### INEXPENSIVE RESERVOIRS AND POTS

Some discount stores sell inexpensive plastic deli containers and lids that can be used as self-watering reservoirs. Simply drill one hole in the lid for the wick to be placed through, and a second hole for adding water.

Inexpensive 3 oz. plastic cups, sold in packs of 25 or more, make excellent starter pots. Holes are needed in the bottom for drainage. A small, battery-operated drill works well for this.

### BUGS AND FUNGUS

Sue Haffner shared this homemade remedy for bugs and fungus. Thoroughly water and disbud your violets. Then spray them with a mixture of 1 oz. Sergeant's Skip Flea & Tick Shampoo in 1 quart of water. (It doesn't hurt Rover, so it should be okay for your plants!)

### INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Add the blossoms the day of judging, if the show schedule allows it. We don't want your beautiful design to lose points because the blossoms were added too early and wilted before judging.

Silk flowers can be used while you are working on a design at home. Save your fresh African violet blossoms for the show, you might need them.

### YELLOW "HALOS" ON LEAVES

The yellow "halos" that form on the outside margins of leaves are so annoying. Although leaves that are already yellow can't be reversed, growers have reported success using fish emulsion, fertilizers with high nitrogen or chelated iron to prevent this problem from happening.

### GNATS, THRIPS, AND FLIES

Yellow, sticky papers, sold in many garden stores, can be hung up near your African violets to catch gnats, thrips, and flies. According to the package, they are safe and non-toxic.

### AN UNDER-WATERED VIOLET

If you forgot to water an African violet and its soil is extremely dry, give it only a small amount of water. A little later, add more water. If you give the violet too much water all at once, this over-watering will cause more stress to the plant and delay its recovery.

### CHLORINE AND CHLORAMINES

Growers have reported problems with their African violets after using tap water that contained too much chlorine or chloramines. Call your water department to find out which one they use to treat the water in your area. You can find products at pet stores that remove chlorine, chloramines, or both.

## PESTICIDE CHART

PESTICIDE CHART	PESTS											
	SLUGS AND SNAILS	COCKROACHES	BEEETLES FOLIAGE FEEDING LARVAE	FOLIAGE FEEDING	APHIDS	FOLIAR MEALYBUG	SOIL MEALYBUG	THRIPS	BROAD MITE	CYCLAMEN MITE	SPIDER MITE	FUNGUS GNATS
PESTICIDES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
acephate (Orthene <sup>®</sup> )		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		
propoxur (Baygon <sup>®</sup> )		•										
carbaryl (Sevin <sup>®</sup> )		•	•	•	•	•		•				
diazinon		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
dicofol (Kelthane <sup>®</sup> )									•	•	•	
dimethoate (Cygon <sup>®</sup> )					•	•	•	•				
disulfoton (Di-Syston <sup>®</sup> )					•	•	•	•			•	
endosulfan (Thiodan R)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
malathion		•		•	•	•	•	•				•
metaldehyde	•											
naled (Dibrom <sup>®</sup> )					•	•						
pyrethrin		•			•			•			•	
resmethrin					•	•		•			•	
rotenone								•			•	

Before you use a product, be sure it is registered for use on African violets and for the specific pest you wish to control.

Before purchasing and using a pesticide, check the product label. Solvents, carriers, concentrations, and other factors may differ with products even though the active ingredients are the same.

# “And the winners are ...”



**Mary Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**CALIFORNIA COUNCILS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Pat Champagne, Shy Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Orchard’s Bumble Magnet; Best Trailer: Suncoast Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ann Wang**. Best Standard: Mighty Mama, **Marcia Shaver**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Florence Naylor**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* ‘Cleopatra’; Best Design, **Leslie Cox**.

**OAKVILLE AVS, ONT – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, Rain Man, Fanny Sue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Texas Space Dust, Aca’s Pink Pet, Frosted Denim; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rainbow’s Fourth Dimension; Best Semiminiature: Snuggles; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* ‘Tiger Stripe’; Best Design;

Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Eva Lindstol**. Design Sweepstakes, **Josefina Fitzwilliam**.

**VENTURE COUNTY AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob’s Fuddy Duddy, Lemon Cookie, Pat Champagne; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob’s Fuddy Duddy; Design Sweepstakes, **Florence Naylor**. 2nd Best Mini/Semi Collection: Honey Blue Angel, Planet Kid, Rob’s Twinkle Pink; Best Standard: Frosted Whisper; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ann Wang**. Best Trailer: Sweet Amy Sue, **Jean Shipley**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Virginia Ellis**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* ‘Double Trouble’, **Barbara Nussear**.

**AVS OF MINNESOTA – Winner:** Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail, **Donna Breen**.

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Donations received October 1, 2000 - January 31, 2001

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Dr. • St. Charles, MO 63304

Wichita African Violet Study Club, Wichita, KS. . . \$15.00	Janet Whitfield, Upper Marlboro, MD. . . . . \$5.00	Sheryl J. Farlin, Broken Arrow, OK . . . . . \$10.00
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Pittman, Celina, TX. . . . . 20.00	George R. Stewart, Universal City, TX. . . . . 5.00	Alan Bly, Somers, NY. . . . . 5.00
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<i>In memory of Mr. Irving Acree</i>	Fantasy Violet Club, Spring Hill, FL. . . . . 7.00	George L. Landgren, Wilmette, IL . . . . . 5.00
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Pacific Northwest Judges Council, Seattle, WA . . . 50.00	Sweet Water AVS, Richmond Hill, NY . . . . . 10.00	
<i>In memory of Nadine Berthold</i>		<b>TOTAL . . . . . \$682.50</b>

# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
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A reader asked recently if it would be possible to cross African violets with other genera of plants to produce intergeneric hybrids. The ability to cross two different genera and produce a viable offspring has been done with several genera in the Gesneriaceae family to which African violets belong. For example, the popular hanging basket plant *Achimenes* has been hybridized with the rhizomatous genus *Eucodonia*. The resulting offspring are called XAchimodonia. The "X" in front of the name signifies an intergeneric hybrid. The name "Achimodonia" is a hybrid between the names of the two genera. Based on the recent DNA studies, the most closely related plant to African violets are the members of the subgenus *Streptocarpella*. These plants also have the same chromosome number as African violets, a fact that would aid in the creation of an intergeneric hybrid. Likewise, members of the African Primrose group, genus *Streptocarpus*, are closely related to African violets and may be another possible source for intergeneric work. I have made a very limited number of attempts to produce an intergeneric cross between African violets and these genera, but so far I have failed to produce any seed pods or viable seed. If you are growing these genera and are interested in a different sort of hybridizing project, try making these intergeneric crosses and see what results you get. I'll be interested in hearing about your successes and failures.

**Q:** *I am trying to get a red blossom with white fantasy streaks on variegated foliage. I have 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' for the white fantasy streaks and 'Arapaho' for the red flowers, but how can I get the variegated foliage?*

**A:** 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' will be an excellent parent for the white fantasy streaks. Although 'Arapaho' has fine coral

red flowers, I'd suggest using 'Powwow' instead as the seed parent. 'Powwow' also has the coral red flowers, but it has the variegated foliage trait you wanted. As long as you use a variegated plant as the seed parent, you should produce a high number of variegated offspring.

The F1 offspring should have variegated foliage and about 50% should have fantasy streaks as this is a dominant genetic trait. However, the blue flower color of 'Rainbow's Quiet Riot' will be dominant to the red flower color of 'Powwow'. To get coral red flowers, take your best F1 fantasy offspring and backcross it to 'Powwow'. This should produce about 50% coral red flowers. The chance of fantasy should still be 50%. The chance of getting coral red and fantasy will be the product of the two traits (.50 X .50) or about 25%. Good luck.

**Q:** *Does it seem that most "blue" African violets carry a recessive pink gene? When I use blue as one or both of the parents in a cross I end up with a very high number of pink flowered offspring.*

**A:** Since blue is dominant to pink and you are getting a high number of pink offspring, it would indeed seem that many of the blue flowered African violets you are working with must carry the recessive for pink. Blue was established as a dominant genetic trait very early in breeding history, so I can see hybridizers working "away" from this trait in order to get more color options in their offspring. Once a recessive is in the breeding line, it will stay there even if we don't realize it.

This would be precisely the type of information that's good to keep in genetic records. Since we can't see recessive traits like pink flowers, the only way we know they are present are through the results of breeding. This information can

be useful in planning future crosses, especially when we want the chance of getting the recessive colors back out.

I might mention that this is not the case when I have used the blue flowered species African violets in crosses. I only get blue offspring in the F1 and have to make additional crosses to get non-blue colors onto the species style foliage.

**Q:** *What would you get when crossing 'Lemon Whip' on to 'Alamo Gold'?*

**A:** Both of these cultivars have white flowers with varying degrees of yellow. I would expect the F1 offspring to be similar. This might be an excellent cross to try to improve the amount of yellow in the flowers. However, expect a number of the offspring to have distorted flowers. Crosses with the yellow pigment often produce a number of plants that show various amounts of distortions in the petals because of the yellow pigment trait.

**Q:** *Would it be possible to get the thumbprint pattern in a fantasy flower color?*

**A:** I think you should be able to achieve this goal in just one generation. Both thumbprint pattern and fantasy are genetic dominant traits. Try crossing your best fantasy with a plant that has a good thumbprint pattern. The inheritance of each trait should be about 50%. Getting both traits together in one offspring would be the product of the two traits (.50 X .50) or about 25%. For extra fun, make the thumbprint plant a recessive color such as pink or red. This may give you some red/blue fantasy plants as well as pink/blue fantasy.

**Q:** *What would you suggest for hybridizing coral and coral red flower colors on miniatures?*

**A:** Try crossing strong pink flowered miniatures with coral or coral red flowered standard plants. The F1 generation will likely be a mixture of sizes, but they will contain the recessives for coral and coral red flower colors. Select the two smallest F1 plants and cross them together. This should increase the chances for small plants and give the chance of coral or coral red flower colors at about 25%. If you grow out enough plants, you should have a good chance of getting a nice miniature with the coral or coral red flower color.

**Q:** *I crossed 'Taffetta Petticoats' (pink with a strong white edge) with 'Ode to Beauty' (coral with raspberry and white edges). Is there a greater likelihood of getting an edged plant in the F1 generation?*

**A:** Both plants carry the geneva edge trait (white edges) which is a genetic dominant that shows variability in the expression of the trait. Yes, when both parents have the trait about 25% of the offspring will have a double dose of the genes and should have a stronger expression of the trait. Growing the offspring at a cooler temperature will also increase the expression of the geneva edge.

The raspberry edge of 'Ode to Beauty' is also a genetic dominant trait and can be expected to be seen in about 50% of the offspring. The two edge traits can be combined (as they are in 'Ode to Beauty'), but offspring with a double dose of geneva edges may show an even more pronounced white edge. It sounds like an interesting cross. Good luck with the offspring.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR CHICAGO CONVENTION ATTENDEES!!

The Illinois African Violet Society is pleased to offer a \$200.00 cash award to be given away at the 2002 Washington, D.C., Convention. The signature plant of our Chicago 2001 Convention is "CHICAGO FLAIR". This plant will be available for sale at several commercial tables at our

convention. Simply purchase one, grow it to perfection, exhibit it at the 2002 Washington Convention and if you have the BEST one, you will win \$200.00! The Illinois African Violet Society hopes you will participate in this offer of a very special award that we are proud to offer.





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## Gesneriad Tubers

In addition to roots, some gesneriads have storage units in the form of rhizomes or tubers. There was a lively discussion about tubers on the Gesneriphile computer list. I asked permission from the following growers to quote them.

John Boggan, Washington D.C. reports: "*Sinningia* tubers can certainly live many years. Like trees and other long-lived perennial plants, I'm not sure that they ever die of old age, so much as succumb eventually to diseases, insects, landslides, etc., i.e., the longer they live, the more the odds are against them. But I don't think there's any way to determine a *Sinningia* tuber's age. When I was studying *Sinningia* for my master's thesis at Cornell I sectioned several tubers. The tuber is a mass of seemingly undifferentiated cells packed full of starch; I could find no growth rings, no internal structure at all, not even vascular tissue. It was just one big lump of starchy cells surrounded by a thin epidermal envelope.

"Oddly enough, given their abundant starch reserves, I have never come across any literature referring to sinningias as food plants. I have to wonder if they are really nasty tasting (I've never tried) or full of toxic compounds."

The subject of how old tubers may live was discussed and Miriam Denham of Colorado possibly holds the age record for *Sinningia* tubers in the United States. "I lost one *Sinningia* *leucotricha* last summer, but the other is still growing. The seeds were planted when they were first distributed in 1956. We received the seeds from Plantsmith in January, 1956, as *Rechsteineria leucotricha*. The tubers spent many years in an 8-inch pot and five or six years ago were repotted into ten-inch pots.

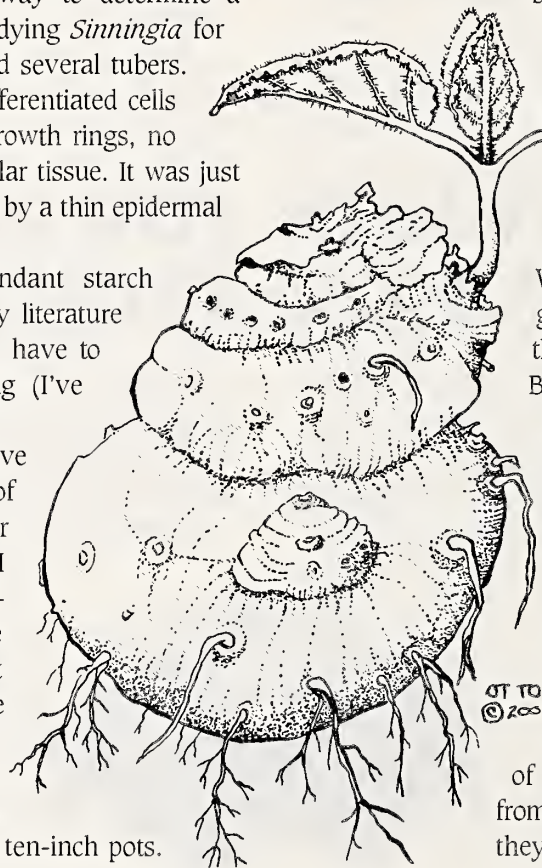
The tubers are only about six inches across (above ground). The largest (widest) tuber I had was a yellow-flowered *Rechsteineria*-type *Sinningia* from Bolivia, which filled the surface of a ten-inch pot before it died. (It was probably *Sinningia* *sulcata*.) I dug it up after it died and it apparently was quite shallow, only an inch or two thick."

Carol Schreck of Florida appears to have the largest tuber. "I have a *Sinningia* *sellovii* that is still thriving that moved to Florida with us in 1984. It was several years old at that time, but quickly outgrew a 6" pot and was planted in the ground where it

has even survived two early morning (1988) temperatures in the low 20-degree range. I took the yardstick out to measure it.

What I can see is 27" x 20" x 6" above the ground and I don't know how much below the ground. I also grow *Sinningia* 'Apricot Bouquet' in a flowerbed. This one is west facing and unprotected from weather or cold in any way. Both *S. sellovii* and *S. 'Apricot Bouquet'* tubers are already sprouting, as of mid-February."

*Chrysothemis* is another gesneriad genus with tubers. I asked Gary Dunlap of Pat's Pets about the tuber on *C. pulchella*. Gary states, "The tubers are round and about 2" in diameter. Roots grow uniformly from the entire surface of the tuber and when they are removed from the pot they appear to be very hairy as they are covered with these small roots. The



tubers may have “eyes”, but they are not apparent. New shoots seem to be able to originate at any point on the tuber. When grown in the greenhouse, they go dormant in November. I let the pot dry out, and in March, I remove the tubers and separate them. The old tubers will have formed several new tubers around them. I break or cut these apart to start the new plants. For a large plant, I use an 8" pot. I fill the pot halfway with new soil and then place a solid layer of tubers on this soil, then finish filling the pot. For starter plants, I put one tuber in each pot. They also start easily from cuttings and each cutting will produce a tuber by the end of the year. These plants are VERY thirsty. When I brought that first one to convention, it collapsed during the first day in the car. I thought it was all over. Then I gave it some water and it sprang back to attention - none the worse.” Gary is too modest to say the entry won Best Gesneriad at the AGGS Denver convention!

*Nautilocalyx* is another genus with tubers, although it's rare to see one. Carol Schreck sent me a tuber and it is less like the plump, starchy *Sinningia* tuber and more like a woody, gnarled clump.

If you are repotting and you see the tuber has rotted areas, go ahead and remove the bad parts with a knife. If your tuber has several sprouts, you can cut your tuber with a sharp knife, making sure that there's a sprout on each piece. Then you'll need to let the cut pieces dry and callus for at least a week. Some like to dust the cut areas with sulfur. To make sure that the tuber doesn't rot when I plant it, I first surround the cut piece with 1/2 inch of fine perlite, then with soil.

I'm so excited about the AVSA convention in Chicago! If I don't get to meet you at my presentation, please introduce yourself to me if you see me in the sales or show room. Look for a short, sassy redhead. It's always a pleasure to meet folks interested in gesneriads!



# The Metamorphosis of a Flower Bug

by Elmer E. McCormick • Berea, KY

Don't get excited! I am not talking about the life cycle of the myriad of insects that invade our African violets, often wrecking havoc. I am talking about the evolution of this flower “bug” from a bashful, freckled faced farm boy into what some even call a flower “nut”.

I grew up among flowers. Mother's summer flower gardens were the envy of the neighbors. During the winter, the windows simply radiated blooms to the utter amazement of most. Perhaps I ought to add that my folk were pioneer farmers in northern Minnesota. Among my earliest recollections is the “sewing machine” window filled with geranium blooms even when the temperature outdoors was forty below zero. Mother spent hours in front of that window at the old Singer Sewing Machine making shirts and dresses for her nine children.

Mother's geraniums were special. My parents were married in 1909. Grandma gave Mother a spotted geranium that very fall. Mother kept starts all her life with that one special window filled summer and winter. I have grown the same spotted geranium all our married life. They are absolutely gorgeous.

As a small boy, I helped Mother care for her flowers. Early on, I learned to start plants the conventional way such as seeds, slips and root division. When I went to college I carried several plants with me.

Naturally, when I married in 1945, we grew plants. Every parsonage we have lived in nearly burst with bloom both indoors and out. My life calling became that of Christian Ministry. I do not recall exactly when I received my first African

Violet start. However, I can still see those glasses of water with starter leaves on the window sill. There was something about those baby plantlets forming on the base of the mother leaf that caught my attention.

In 1960, a kind neighbor gave me starts of perhaps a dozen different leaves. While they didn't bloom much, I was learning. In 1968, we lived in Steubenville, Ohio and had the most beautiful African violets growing in two very large picture windows. They were the talk of the town.

However, it wasn't until 1975 that I started growing under lights. Two very generous ladies gave me oodles of leaves and tons of advice on how to grow violets. Since then, I have grown them by the hundreds. The next step was to grow for show. I have well over a hundred blue ribbons won at the Indiana State Show, and have won the Queen of the Show in every division.

What else can I say? I have been immersed in flowers for nearly eighty years. No, I do not have a green thumb. I just checked! This is the best therapy I can think of for the “blues” and, for that matter, for a tired body and mind at the end of a hectic day. Most of what I know about African violet culture I have gleaned from reading, from conversation, and, of course from just experience. After all, experience is the best teacher. This is not a science to be mastered, but an experience to be felt. I have enjoyed my pilgrimage of growing plants for well over seventy years.

# Soil pH and Fertilizers

by Neil Lipson, PE

It has been five years since my last article, *The Secrets of Chimeras*, and I'm ready to continue with a discussion of soil pH and fertilizers. I will try to avoid the heavy discussion of the chemistry of the above and emphasize the practical use of soil pH testing and fertilizers.

## Soil pH

For over ten years, I never bothered to check my soil pH. I always had what I thought were perfect plants, and I assumed everything was fine. When I purchased a pH meter, and I tested the soil, I was shocked to find that the plants' soil had an average of pH 4.0. I couldn't believe it. I corrected the soil pH to about 6.7 and noticed the plants grow and bloom like crazy. You see, ignorance is bliss, and back then I was very ignorant (African violet wise).

Most of you understand that fertilizer works best in only a certain range of pH, from about pH 5.8 to pH 7.6, but the plants thrive best at around 6.7. The idea is to use enough fertilizer to get the proper results, but not too much to cause fertilizer salt accumulations in the soil.

Inexpensive fertilizer usually causes the most accumulations of the salt, and the better ones are the most efficient. Among those factors that cause soil pH changes are:

1. the water you are using
2. accumulation of fertilizer salts
3. the soil mixture
4. having too much or too little lime
5. peat moss becoming acidic as time goes by
6. the type of lime that you use (hydrated vs. dolomite).

If you have only a few plants, and you buy pre-packaged soil, you don't have much of a worry, as most of these soils are pretty good on maintaining the pH. However, if you have many plants, like myself, and make your own soil, you really should test your soil every few months with a pH meter. This is because a pH meter, while somewhat costly, is much cheaper in the long run, especially when shared in a club or with a few people.

I hope to follow this article with a recommendation of pH meters, but for the time being, I'll explain that a soil testing kit is great for one sample of soil, but gets very expensive for many samples.

The way that I use my meter is to first calibrate it with the pH 7.0 and pH 4.0 solutions, clean the probe with a Q-tip, and get two cups of water, one with diluted bleach, and the other deionized water (distilled will work). I spray the soil with some deionized water, and lightly push the probe into

the soil until I get a stable reading. Sometimes I have to poke a few times to get a good reading. I then rinse the probe with the diluted bleach solution and rinse again with the deionized water. This is to get stable readings and to avoid spreading insects.

There are a few other methods for using a pH meter. The "professional" method is to get ten grams of soil, let it dry, mix it with 10ml of distilled water, let it sit for thirty minutes, and then test it with the pH meter. This is called the 1 to 1 method. It is also a pain, so I use the other method as a fast check.

A word of caution to those that have pH meters older than three years: they may be useless. If it uses the glass bulb, and it has dried out, you will have to replace the probe. Also, the meter must be calibrated every couple of days. You must use a fresh test solution each time (or at least change it once every couple of weeks); otherwise you are wasting your time. The new pH meters do not require the probe to be kept in a wet holder, and these meters last many years longer. When the glass bulbs of the older units dry out, there are micro-cracks, which cause huge drifts in the pH readings. Only buy them with the understanding that they demand more frequent calibration

When testing the soil, you should use this method when the soil is relatively recently changed. A pot with six-month-old soil and high fertilizer salts will give skewed readings. Do not check your new soil mix the minute you mix it, as the pH must stabilize for about a week to get accurate readings. If you find the soil is not in the proper range, you can do the following:

1. If the soil pH is too high (not very common), add some vinegar to the water solution, or "wash" the soil in peat moss.
2. If the soil pH is too low (much more common), add  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of liquid lime to the water solution. If you cannot get liquid lime, you can make some by mixing finely powdered hydrated lime in a mixer with water into a slurry, pour into a bottle, and shake before using and measuring.
3. The other, more permanent way, is to buffer the soil you make with dolomite lime. This differs from hydrated lime in that it releases the lime more slowly, and for a longer period of time. You can also get pH UP from Dyna-Gro, at a much higher price, but it's a little more convenient.

I came up with one improvement to increasing soil pH stability. Instead of using only dolomite lime, decrease the



dolomite lime slightly and add a little hydrated lime. You see, dolomite lime takes a while to work, so when you initially check the pH, it may seem low. Try making 20% of the lime you add hydrated lime. Then the pH will be more stable from the moment you test it throughout the next six months. Keep in mind that peat moss becomes more acidic as time goes by.

I am presently trying different amounts of dolomite lime to my perlite-vermiculite-peat moss mixture, and I find some peat to be more acidic than others. You will have to experiment, and then probably adjust the pH of the soil as time goes by. If you buy your peat moss in a large bail, you may have to spend extra time in mixing, as compared to the "professional" peat moss from Scotts and other similar brands, which win hands down in pureness and being finely milled.

I spent some time speaking to Steve Titko at Scotts, and got quite an education on the quality of their peat moss. They prefer a scale 2-3 on the Von Post Scale (which is 1 to 10). You do not want the peat to break down completely, and this will "rate" this breakdown. Their peat is pH 3.0-5.0 and the particle size is a screen 4 or 5. When I tried growing some plants using this peat, the plants actually looked better and quite different than the low grade peat I used to use.

## Fertilizers

Fertilizers are another story. For a long time, I used the cheapest fertilizer, without really understanding the long-term effects. Things have changed. You want to avoid fertilizers that contain large amounts of urea (causes poor root development and can burn the roots). Also, some of the "designer" fertilizers, like Dyna-Gro, have all the trace elements in them, where most others do not. Whether you need something as balanced as Dyna-Gro depends on the particular violet you are growing and your soil. Some violets grow fine with the cheapest fertilizer, and some require only the best. If you are using the soilless mixture (perlite-vermiculite-peat moss as an example), Dyna-Gro, which has more trace elements, works even more effectively. Some of the Peters formulations also have micronutrients. What do you do? I would experiment. In fact, it is recommended that you periodically change fertilizers to even things out. If you really know what you are doing, and you find a winner, stick with it.

For starting plants, pick a fertilizer with a high phosphorus (the middle number of the three). The numbers are as follows: the first number is the percentage of nitrogen, the second is phosphorus, and the third is potassium (derived frequently from potash). Keep in mind, however, that too much potash will dramatically increase fertilizer salts.

The Dyna-Gro can be purchased in any size up to 55 gallon drum (if you are buying your fertilizer in a 55 gallon drum, you should be writing this article instead of me!). Dyna-Gro also has pint, quart, and gallon sizes, which is more economical if you have hundreds of plants, like myself.

I am personally testing Dyna-Gro, along with a few other low urea formulations to determine how it works. Initially, I have heard that it is very effective, although a little costly. If, however, you get winning plants, it is worth the cost. You must decide this, not me.

Fertilizers, in general, have a long shelf life, especially with powders, which last just about forever. Because you are dealing with elemental chemistry, the compounds will not "deteriorate" the way that complex compounds, such as insecticides, will.

In speaking to many people about the amount of urea that should be in your AV fertilizer, I found that most of the experts keep the urea below 5% or 6%. Some insist that it should be zero, but I personally doubt that this is necessary for 100% of the time. To my knowledge, there are no studies on the effectiveness of no urea fertilizers on AV, but if it's below 5%, you should be fine (Keep in mind if you rotate your fertilizers with a 10% and then a 0%, you get about 5% average). Some growers even use a 10% formulation, but this was the top end of the range. Even Peters and some of the other manufacturers are removing urea because of marketing pressure. Optimara and KGRO AV fertilizer (Kmart!) is also urea free.

Urea is useful for a quick fertilizer jump, and it breaks down quickly, so this is another reason I will accept around a 5% formulation. Peters had a problem not too long ago where they increased the urea from 10% to 18%, and if you read the label carefully, you would have spotted it, but they did not change the design of the label. My friend, Ed Holst wrote an article on this subject in the April-May-June 97 issue of the Dixie News, and did a follow-up in the July-Aug-Sept 97 issue. He mentioned that he did not have good success with DynaGro and mentioned that acidic water with DynaGro may have caused the problems. In general, most people I spoke to like the DynaGro products, but I'll let you know more in the follow-up article when I receive some feedback and hard numbers. One grower said that DynaGro made a substantial difference with the light green foliage plants.

## Conclusion

I was going to do an in-depth analysis of what fertilizer is the best, but the rigors of the study were too much for me to undertake. Even a slight variable, such as slightly different pH of one soil over the other, would skew the results. Therefore, I recommend that you personally try some of the ones suggested above. Start with the cheapest, and then move up. Fertilizer is only a tiny part of the care that violets need, so don't ignore lighting, soil, temperature, and pH from your list of variables to make the violets the best they can be.

If any of you want to email me, I'm at Lipson@att.net. Please don't send letters without an email or phone listing, as I will have to track you down.

# AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons  
38 Indian Creek Drive  
Levittown, PA 19057

## CONTRIBUTIONS 1 DECEMBER 2000 - 31 JANUARY 2001

Sue Hoffmann, Va. Beach, VA . . . . . \$50.00	Cedar Valley AVC, Cedar Valley, IA . . . . . \$50.00
Judges Council of Northern California . . . . . 25.00	Wilma Waterstreet, Sturgeon Bay, WI . . . . . 5.00
<i>Apply to California Microfilm Project</i>	John Houser, Salt Lake City, UT . . . . . 5.00
Pomona Valley AVS, Pomona, CA. . . . . 25.00	Nancy Goss, Austin, TX . . . . . 10.00
<i>In fond memory of longtime member Ruby Hansen</i>	<i>In fond memory of Gladys Hudnall</i>
<i>Apply to the California Microfilm Project</i>	Sue Ann Blackman, Conyers, GA . . . . . 20.00
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<i>a club member for many, many years</i>	<i>In memory of Tom Seiler - long time</i>
AVS of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. . . . . 15.00	<i>African violet associate</i>
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	<b>TOTAL: \$443.00</b>



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<i>In honor of Berniece Kennerson,</i>	
<i>president of AVC of Southern CA 1974-1976</i>	

# Shows and Judges



**Bill Foster**  
*Shows and Judges Committee*  
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I hope to see many of you at the judges' breakfast in Chicago. Discussions from that meeting will appear in the September/October Shows & Judges column. Here are a few questions that were received recently.

*Q. Should leniency be shown in judging entries of first time exhibitors?*

**A.** There is really no sure way to know if you are judging an entry of a first timer. Some shows have a novice class for members who have never won a blue ribbon. Most judges feel that it is best to write remarks to any exhibitor, but especially those suspected to be first timers, to explain how they could have improved their exhibit. If a blue ribbon is given to an entry that is not deserving, we are basically telling the exhibitor that what they did was just fine. Rather than improving, they will expect to be rewarded for inferior entries the next time they enter. It is best to be honest in judging.

*Q. Is it permissible to place a 3 X 5 card, giving a brief description or explanation, with a novel or unusual container entry? May a plant that is not blooming true be used?*

**A.** NO! this is a horticulture class and cards are only permitted with design classes. Inferior plants SHOULD NOT be used in novel or unusual containers. These plants are judged the same way as plants in the other horticulture classes. Five points have been deducted from symmetry, condition and quantity of bloom in order to have fifteen points allotted as "relation to container". A miniature over six inches or a semi-

miniature over eight inches should not be judged. A plant that is not blooming true should lose anywhere from a half point (per blossom) up to ten points (no blossoms are true). Symmetry, condition and quantity are worth twenty points each and color and size of blossom are worth fifteen. If you have grown two plants of the same variety, this is a place to use the extra.

*Q. May an Affiliate use their own club members to serve as judges in their show? If so, are there any stipulations?*

**A.** Circumstances sometimes make it necessary for a club to use their members as judges. When this happens, these judges should be assigned to judge classes where they have few or no entries. They should never judge their own collections and if they happen to be judging in classes where they have entries, they should step back and observe and offer no comments.

*Q. Is there a requirement that states that we MUST use a student judge on each panel or any panel?*

**A.** No, the judges' chairman is free to select whomever they choose to serve on each panel. However, it is a courtesy shown to student judges, to ask them to serve. This is where they gain their experience in judging. They should observe and learn from the more experienced judges. They are entitled to an opinion but should never dominate or be too outspoken. However, they should feel free to ask the other panel members to explain their decisions.



# Thinking Small



## Pat Richards

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As we head into summer, one of the primary concerns is getting our beloved violets through this often brutally warm season. Many of us have no choice but to grow in less than desirable conditions which are simply too warm for optimal plant growth. International members please note: while this column may not apply to you now, it will in six months. I'm very sorry I cannot write this in a timely manner for all of our readers!

### THE REALITY OF SUMMER

With warmer temperatures, soil becomes more biologically active, making fertilizer utilization more effective, resulting in more aggressive plant growth. Conventional wisdom tells us to reduce the amount of fertilizer we use as, in theory, more fertilizer is unnecessary and would only be wasted. There is a different, and more intriguing opposite response, however. Shannon Ahlman of the Violet House in Grand Island, Nebraska, makes a good argument for increasing the amount of fertilizer used. His theory is: because the plants are growing faster, they are consuming greater amounts of fertilizer. Therefore, to sustain growth they should be fed more. I have not put this theory into practice; however, judging by Shannon's exceptionally large, well-grown plants I have no reason to question it.

For the purposes of this column, we should bear in mind that Shannon is a grower of standards with obviously different size expectations than miniatures and semiminiatures. For judging and hybridizing purposes, miniatures are defined as being no greater than 6" in plant diameter, and semiminiatures no greater than 8". As a general rule, they should not exceed these limits, yet with warm growing conditions, they will easily exceed them. Case in point: last summer I grew about a dozen small ones in my upstairs growing area. (It features five-foot windows almost covering three full sides of the room, with no direct central air access. The room approaches 90 degrees Fahrenheit during summer, with relative humidity between 20% and 30%.) These plants grew extremely fast, and bloomed copiously; however, the leaf size and petioles were, for the most part, in excess of the desired size.

So what is the grower of small ones to do? To begin with, carefully select which varieties to include in your collection. If

your growing conditions are excessively warm, grow only those varieties described as "small-growing" by paying close attention to hybridizers' and catalog descriptions and talking to other growers. Another quick suggestion is to substitute fish emulsion for your regular fertilizer. It is a more dilute fertilizer than the man-made fertilizers which are generally used and recommended, and will result in less potential damage to the plant's sensitive roots. Third, grow in smaller pots, if at all possible. This has the effect of restricting root growth which will have an effect on overall plant size.

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS - AIR

If your growing conditions are very warm, it becomes more critical to keep the air moving around the plant. Just as we like to keep fans operating for our own comfort, plants also benefit. The key is keeping the plant transpiration process going. This has a cooling, beneficial effect on the plant. It also has a tremendously beneficial secondary effect of keeping plant pathogens in control. With warmer temperatures, the growth of fungus and disease becomes more difficult to control. Keeping the entire growing area cooler will have an inhibiting effect on this. Some growers think this is only critical during the heat of the day, or when the lights are on. However, you'll see maximum benefits if you follow through 24 hours a day!

### LIGHT

Reducing the total amount of time your lights are on will be helpful as well. Although our fluorescent lights are becoming much more energy efficient, many types still give off heat. Again, increasing air flow to draw the heat away, operating for shorter hours, and/or running the lights during nighttime hours instead of during the day will help you manage your plant collection during the summer. Many utility companies offer reductions in cost during minimum usage hours, so not only will it save your plants, it may save you money! While some may caution against changing the hours your plants are under lights, I personally don't believe it has a detrimental effect. For years, I have had lights on in my plant room at all hours so my plants were never in full darkness. I would move plants from one shelf and one set of times, to another shelf with a separate set of

times, without noticing any effect on the plant. The critical consideration is what you're comfortable with and what you're able to do. By observing your plant it, you will be able to tell whether or not it's flourishing under the given set of conditions.

Finally, if you're growing in natural light, be careful of hot summer afternoons and evenings. Your plants in west-facing windows may need to be further from the windows. Also, while summer rays are more directly overhead, less direct light reaches our plants. Adequate light is being received, though, as with greater daylight hours plants are exposed to more light.

### KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE

If you must grow your plants in warmer temperatures, over-watering becomes an even greater hazard. As indicated above, plant pathogens multiply at greater rates in warmer temperatures. If sensitive roots are compromised in any manner, greater damage will result. Soggy soil will be problematic, as will soil which is too light, making frequent watering and/or monitoring necessary. Too soggy conditions will result in plants turning to mush (petioles and leaves turning brown and becoming jelly-like). An additional complication is if air movement is increased, resulting in increased plant transpiration, more frequent watering will be necessary. Simply put, plants must be watched more closely for a variety of reasons than if they are being grown cool. As plant growth is increased, so must your watchful eye, making observations for watering, transplanting, care and maintenance.

It is helpful to grow in a lightweight soil to reduce water

build-up. Transplanting also helps, because soil tends to compact over time as soil components break down. By keeping the soil fresh, air spaces in the soil are both numerous and large enough to prevent soggy conditions. A word of caution, though: be very careful the soil is not too waterlogged after transplanting, and that your plant is not put directly back onto its regular watering system. The roots have been compromised, and need time to regenerate. For a few days, they will not be able to absorb water as they had been.

Careful grooming will further assist in your plant's survival. Removing old and damaged plant debris, such as bloom stalks and petioles will help. Another consideration when summer days are at the longest and hottest is simply not to let your plant bloom at all. Blooming is strenuous on your plant, and maintaining beautiful blooms requires a lot of water. Saving your plant the strain of blooming will pay big rewards in the fall: a healthy, strong plant with a good root system will burst into bloom upon the arrival of cooler weather!

Finally, because growers without central air must keep their windows open, it is important to keep an eye out for plant pests that are allowed to travel indoors. Open windows necessitate more plant washing as additional dust collects on their foliage. Frequent washing will keep the plant's foliage clean and thriving.

For a number of reasons summer is perhaps the most difficult season for growing violets. With careful preparation and anticipation, less strain can be placed on them, resulting in prolific bloom and growth in the fall!

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## The Necessity of Light

Light is essential for plant growth. Since plants make their own food from water, air, and light through photosynthesis, light is more important than fertilizer. Cultivars differ in the amount of light they need. Plants with dark foliage generally need more light than plants with light or variegated foliage.

**Natural light:** African violets can be grown in any window with a strong, bright light. Northern and eastern windows may not provide enough light; southern and western windows may provide too much. Since light intensity varies at different times of the year, it may be necessary to try growing plants in different locations. Since window light is one-sided, plants should be turned on a regular basis. Many people give their window-grown plants a quarter turn every three days.

**Artificial light:** African violets grow well under artificial light. Growing under lights makes it easier to regulate the plant's needs and produce beautiful plants. Because of the heat of incandescent lights African violets are generally grown under fluorescent lights. Cool white, cool white in combination with warm white, or special growing tubes can be used. Since the intensity of the light falls off with time, it is best to replace the tubes every fifteen to eighteen months for more even growing conditions. Since the light in the center of a fluores-

cent tube is stronger than that at the ends, plants that require more light are put in the center of the lights, and plants that require less light are grown at the ends. Adjust the lights so they are eight to twelve inches above the tops of the plants (miniature and semiminiature varieties may have to be closer). Keep the lights on from twelve to fourteen hours a day. If using wide spectrum lights, keep them on no more than 8 hours a day when new, and about ten to twelve hours a day later. Watch plants to see if they need more or less light and if their growth is regular. Time clocks for automatically turning the lights on and off are a great convenience.

**Too little light:** Indications of insufficient light are lengthening of the petioles and lack of bloom. Since bud formation is governed by light intensity, the most frequent reason for lack of bloom in African violets is not enough light.

**Too much light:** Indications of too much light are shortening of the petioles, curling up of the center leaves, and bleaching or yellowing of the foliage.

**One-sided light:** If African violets are growing in a window, they will need help to develop and maintain good symmetry. A quarter turn every three days should keep plants symmetrical. Plants grown under artificial light may also have to be turned from time to time.

# Variegated African Violets

by Denis Croteau

## Introduction

African violets are known as “the Queen of Indoor Gardening” while variegated African violets can be considered the jewels. These jewels, having light or dark foliage contrasting with creamy white, pink, or even chartreuse markings have all the usual colored blossoms normally seen on African violets.

## History

The story of the variegated African violet started December 31, 1956, the day Mrs. Tommy Louise Oden ordered leaves of ‘White Pride’ from Clyde Rollof. At that time, this flower was the best double white. Mrs. Oden received the leaves January 10, 1957. The leaves were planted and in March, she noticed one of the plantlets had unusual foliage. Each leaf was edged in a creamy white. Mrs. Oden grew the new variety through nine generations to ensure the mutation came true. There had been other variegated violets but they turned out to be unstable. Later some of her friends requested that this new variety be named ‘Tommie Lou’ in her honor. ‘Tommie Lou’ won many awards, being named Violet of the Year many times. It also gave Mrs.

Oden the opportunity to travel all over the United States, telling the ‘Tommie Lou’ story to fascinated growers of African violets.

After a few years, African violet growers dreamed of variegated leaves with different colored blossoms. Hybridizers tried, but without success. Even the great Lyndon Lyon thought the variety was sterile. However, Harold Reinhardt saw it as a challenge. He crossed the ‘Tommie Lou’ owned by his wife, Cordelia, many times - without success. Finally, in 1969 he succeeded, eleven years after the birth of ‘Tommie Lou’. We now know that the reproductive organs of ‘Tommie Lou’ are deformed, possibly due to the double blossom gene. Even if Reinhardt was successful in this historic crossing, he didn’t have the pleasure of cultivating it



*Tommie Lou Oden holding her namesake - ‘Tommie Lou’.  
Photo from GSN*

**A selection  
of different  
variegated  
African violets**



*Photo by Ronn Nadeau*

and seeing the first plants resulting from the crossing. As a matter of fact, the Reinhardts had to move during this period and Harold removed the seed pod from 'Tommie Lou' and gave it to his friend, Lyndon Lyon. So it was Lyon who is considered to be really responsible for the second generation.

This second generation was a cross with 'Purple Gold' and produced such varieties as 'Top Dollar', 'Nancy Reagan', 'Happy Harold' and 'Lyndy Lou'. Later, an American clergyman, Charles Blade, had much success with the Parsons series. His first cross was 'Tommie Lou' with 'After Five' by Ethel Champion. Here he used 'Tommie Lou' as the mother plant. African violet blossoms are hermaphrodite which means they contain both male and female sexual parts and can be used as either the mother or the father, according to the wishes of the hybridizer.

Soon, several other hybridizers introduced variegated foliage. For example, Barbara Sisk of Violets c/o Cookie with 'Southern Comfort', 'Fisherman's Paradise' and many others. Irene Fredette produced one of my favorites, 'Silver Lining'. Paul Sorano, grandson of Lyndon Lyon and now the owner of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses is also successful with his variegated varieties.

Some members of our Montreal area clubs, such as Michel Tremblay and Yvon Decelles specialized in the variegated varieties. Michel had introduced 'Marie-Sylvia', 'La Mer' and 'Picasso' which are all beautiful. Yvon Decelles had decided to concentrate solely on variegated foliage. As for me, I was experimenting too.

### Different Kinds of Variegation

There are four types of variegation - spontaneous, crown, Tommie Lou and mosaic.

#### Spontaneous

These are the least stable in the variegated group. The leaves can be creamy white, pink or chartreuse. This variegation may last for a short time only and then disappear altogether. It could happen on all new leaves or only on one leaf. This type of variegation can be passed on to the new generation, but in most cases, new plantlets won't show it. It can rarely be passed on through hybridization because the genes don't have that trait for variegation. It results from the inability of one or more cells to produce chlorophyll. These isolated, defective cells are able to sub-divide or duplicate themselves to create this temporary variegation but there is no change to their genetic makeup. It's a dead end as far as hybridizing is concerned. Nearly all green leaved varieties can produce a leaf showing variegation. In order for the variegation to be present in the plant, the origi-

nal variegated cells must originate from the crown. Otherwise, they end up by disappearing altogether.

#### Crown Variegation

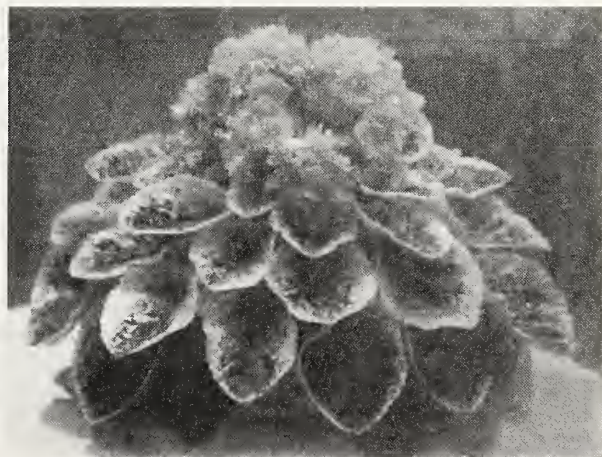
These variegations are passed on through heredity and they are more stable and permanent than spontaneous. There are two conditions necessary - they cannot be fed fertilizer with a high nitrogen count and should not be exposed to too high temperatures. This means below 80° F. This type of variegation can produce the chlorophyll necessary to grow. We call this a genetical trait or "sex linked genes". You can only use this plant as the mother in hybridizing. The variegation must have resulted from a shock or a genetic error. Margaret Vallin was the first person to specialize in crown variegation with her 'Val' series in the late 50's and early 60's. Mrs. Ethel Champion introduced a second type of crown variegation with yellow or dull pink coloring. Her plantlets are usually a creamy color and gradually get more green as they mature. These plants must maintain some green in their leaves or they will die. Most growers feed their plantlets with a high nitrogen fertilizer to give them a good start and to aid the mature plantlets in replacing lost chlorophyll.

#### Tommie Lou

The Tommie Lou type may be simply a creamy white edge to even more intense variegation throughout the leaves. It is less affected by high temperatures or high nitrogen, particularly the newer varieties. The same phenomenon "sex linked genes" appears on this type of variegation. The mother plant must be variegated to pass on the genes or both parents can be variegated. For several years now, this type of variegation is known as Tommie Lou foliage.

#### Mosaic

There have only been a few of this type of variegation since it was introduced many years ago. They are very stable and are not affected by temperature change or high nitrogen fertilizer. This 'mosaic' pattern covers the whole leaf and is a serious genetic defect or mutation and very few of them reach maturity when used in a crossing. As a result, it is considered



*This 'Anna Kreek' was the Best Variegated and Best of Show at the 1984 AVSC convention in Montreal. This was a very large plant grown by one of Canada's best growers, Therese Decelles. Photo by John Beaulieu*

to be either sterile or very difficult to cross successfully. Only a few seeds reach maturity. These plantlets are puny or are hard to grow. 'Emperor' and 'Lillian Jarrett' have, however, proved to be good show plants over the years and Mrs. Champion has introduced more varieties of this type of variegation.

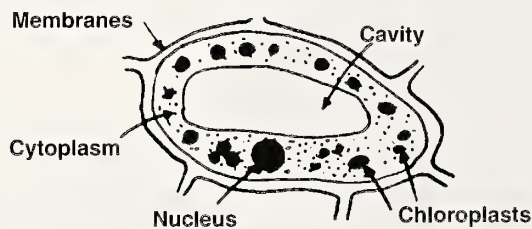
### Miniatures and Trailers

Several hybridizers, mainly Lyndon Lyon, developed miniatures and trailers with variegated foliage. This variegation added an irresistible charm to these new varieties - replicas of the regular sizes. The variation in variegated African violets such as crown type, Tommie Lou, or mosaic are not the result of a viral infection as we have seen in certain species of plants. It is a natural mutation caused by a change at the genetic level which lets the variegation show.

### Why Variegated Foliage?

To understand why there is variegated foliage, we must look at the cell structure. In each cell are found microscopic bodies or fine granules suspended in a viscous translucent material (cytoplasm or protoplasm). The kernal, or nucleus, occupies a small part of the cell and is surrounded by the cytoplasm. In the cytoplasm there are chloroplasts which are responsible for the production of chlorophyll.

Chlorophyll gives the rich green color to the leaves. Variegation is caused by a lack of chlorophyll. We don't know if it is the capacity to produce chlorophyll which is affected or if the cell doesn't contain enough chloroplasts to make the leaf all green.



### African Violet Cell

Most of the genetic influences are found in the nucleus. Geneticists have proven that some characteristics are transmitted by the cytoplasm - this is called cytoplasmic heredity. The male cells hardly contain any cytoplasm but it is present in large quantities in the female cell. Now it is seen why we must use the variegated plant as mother. Cells producing chlorophyll are only transmitted by female ones. Using totally green colored leaves as mother will only give us green offspring but using variegated leaved plants as both parents will produce variegated offspring.

### Culture

Variegated leaved violets are grown like the others with a few differences. Due to a lack of chlorophyll, they grow more slowly. The amateur grower must be more patient. We use the same type of soil, and watering is unchanged.



*'Perhaps Love' is a popular variegated African violet often seen on the winners table. This one was photographed at a New York State show. Photo by John Beaulieu*

### Fertilizers

It is better to use a fertilizer such as 5-50-17 as it contains less nitrogen which gives us the green leaf. At 80° F certain variegated varieties tend to revert to all green so it is better to keep them in a cool place, preferably on the bottom shelf of your light stand. Nitrogen is more easily absorbed in hot weather. This is because bacteria producing chlorophyll are more active with higher temperatures. This also explains why leaves get very white at low temperatures. The supposedly ideal night and day temperatures for variegated African violets are 58° F and 68° F, respectively. I did not have these ideal conditions in my home and yet I could grow nicely variegated African violets.

### Cuttings

Use leaves that are not too young or too old. Leaves from the second row from the bottom are the best. Each leaf must have as much green as possible, otherwise the mother leaf will not be able to nourish the babies. As with crown variegation, the center is almost completely variegated. Wait until the plantlets contain enough chlorophyll before separating them from the mother otherwise they will die due to lack of chlorophyll.

### Leaf Undercolor

While variegation can't be transmitted genetically, it can only be passed on by a mother cell to a girl cell. In contrast, the color of the variegated leaf is genetically transmitted. For example, green undercolor produces cream variegation, silver produces white, pink produces a dark pink variegation.

### Conclusion

As you have all noticed, variegated African violets are certainly the most beautiful of all violets. With the persistence of hybridizers, they will become even more magnificent.

*From African-violet and Gesneriad News*





# What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

## Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

## From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

## A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

## The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



# HANGING BASKETS

by Marge Huntley • Australia

The vining habit of *Aeschynanthus*, *Columnnea*, *Codonanthe* and *Nematanthus* makes them ideal for growing in hanging baskets. All may be propagated from cuttings which are started in a small pot and progressively moved on to larger pots until big enough for the basket.



As cuttings grow, the tips should be kept pinched back to force the development of many trails. I like the look of a single cutting, which through many pinchings over a long time, will make the very best specimen.

However, multiple planting of cuttings is accepted and produces a good basket much more quickly.

I grow my baskets at a north window where they only need protection from the sun during the winter and early spring. Large plants drink a lot of water, so water well baskets are ideal. Fertilizer needs to be used regularly in the growing time, but when plants are just sitting, plain water will suffice. This has to do with the warmth of your conditions. In a cold house, growth slows down, so food is not so important for the time being. Potting mix is regular African violet mix.

If leaf drop causes bare stems, these stems should be cut back and new growth will come. *Aeschynanthus* (common name Lipstick vine) flower mainly on the tip growth so they need to be trimmed back after flowering if you don't want next year's flowers at floor level. Other gesneriads which may be grown in hanging baskets are the seasonal growers such as *Achimenes*, *Kohleria*, and *Gloxinia* and of course, *Streptocarpus* which makes the most marvellous show. *Streptocarpus*, with its long strap leaves, can look good and *Strep. saxorum*, with its tiny round leaves and light blue bloom, is ever popular.

*From the Newsletter of the  
Early Morn AV Group, Australia*

# AVOIDING HEAT STRESS!

by Sue Gardner

Do you suffer heat stress in the hot weather? If so give a thought for your African violets that can also suffer. Here are a few hints to help your African violets cope.

## 1. Sunburn

If you grow on a window sill and the summer sun shines on your plants, avoid the brown patches of sunburn on the leaves by either -

- moving the plants to a place where no hot sunlight shines on them.
- covering them with tissue paper till the sunlight moves off the plants.
- use translucent curtains to reduce heat of the sun.
- pull down blinds (interior or exterior) at least until sun moves off plants.

## 2. Hot, Hot Weather

If growing under lights, you can either -

- reduce light hours or turn lights off as they increase the heat around plants.
- Use a fan to move air in the room as long as it does not blow directly onto plants.
- Reduce the amount of fertilizer in the water you use to water the plants or in the reservoirs if you wick water. This is because plants transpire more (use more water) in hot, dry weather. The amount of water drawn into the plant is greater. but they do not need more fertilizer. So, reduce the amount of fertilizer to prevent fertilizer burn.

## 3. Low Humidity and High Temperature

If the humidity is low in hot weather you can

- mist your plants with hot water, holding the spray bottle about 30cm from leaves,
- place containers of water among the plants.

*From the Newsletter of the  
Early Morn AV Group, Australia*



# LEAF ATTACK - PESTS AND DISEASES

by Rena Douglas • Australia

When the leaves of your African violets suddenly droop and look sad and wilted, panic frequently sets in and the usual reaction is, "Oh, no! I've killed it!" However, thank goodness, this conclusion is premature, and with care and proper treatment, the toughness of these plants wins through and they will recover after the setback. If not, at least a leaf or a center can be saved and propagated.

The most likely diseases to be suffered by an African violet are fungal in nature and careful monitoring of your plants is generally the best defense against them. Nowhere is the saying "Prevention is better than cure" more pertinent than in the health of African violets!

A strong, healthy plant growing in clean conditions, regularly checked and well cared for is in an excellent position to ward off most diseases. Regular removal of dead flowers and leaves removes possible sites for fungal spores.

However, regardless of the most devoted care and attention, changes in weather conditions, large swings in temperature ranges and high humidity will often wreak havoc

**Powdery Mildew** is seen as a white or greyish coating in patches on the leaves, flowers, buds and stems. It is often associated with poor air circulation, increased humidity and wide variability in temperature range.

Treatment - If a mild attack, the leaves may be washed under gently running, lukewarm water. For a more severe attack, spray with a Benlate solution if available. One spray of either is usually enough. If your plant is kept in the bathroom, check to be sure that you haven't got a "talcum powder" mildew!

**Botrytis** - shows as a gray mold, usually if the plant is very wet. It can also appear as a cottony web in the center of the plant.

Treatment - Save a leaf or two, dip them in bleach solution, put down to propagate, and dispose of rest of plant, burning it if you can. Wash shelves with bleach solution to kill fungus spores.

**Crown Rot, Petiole Rot** - is a fungal disease, but is generally caused by the plant being too wet and thereby providing ideal conditions for the fungus to establish itself. The plant looks droopy, and is often thought to need water, which, if given, will only make the problem worse. The plant becomes wobbly in the pot, and when investigated further, is found to have turned brown at the top of the stem, and the whole crown can be pulled away.

Treatment - Cut away dead parts and repot in fresh potting mix.

**Petiole Rot** - leaf stalks collapse over edge of pot and turn brown and sometimes mushy, and usually a fertilizer crust is seen on pot.

Treatment - Remove affected leaves and repot.

**Leaf Drop** is not usually caused by disease but by cultural conditions and perhaps the presence of gas used for cooking or heating. It may also be caused by over-watering with too cold water.

## PESTS:

**Cyclamen mite** - the African violet grower's dread!

It is usually first observed in the center of the plant where the leaves become distorted and hairy. Petioles also become distorted and thickened, likewise blossom stems and flowers, as the attack advances. The mite is invisible to the naked eye, and moves very quickly!

Treatment - Treat all plants in the collection.

If caught in the early stages Kelthane solution sprayed three times at 10-14 day intervals plus two more sprayings a month or so later may do the trick. Care must be taken to spray the undersides of the leaves also.

Generally it is felt that it's better to save, disinfect and propagate a leaf and discard the rest of the plant.

**Mealy bugs** - the bane of my existence! They are seen as small cottony balls in leaf axils, on leaves and under.

Treatment - small attacks may be dealt with by touching the insect with a cotton bud or fine paintbrush dipped in methylated spirits - they don't thrive on such treatment!

For larger infestations, a systemic type of pesticide may be used, but the best thing to do is to save and propagate a leaf, and throw the rest of the plant away. I have had some success by placing the affected plant in an enclosed container, such as a terrarium, with a Shell pest strip for a few hours. Any flowers on the plant will be marked after two hours, but this is a small price to pay if it saves a precious plant. Do not leave for more than five hours at a time. Repeat the treatment if necessary.

**Aphids and Thrips** can cause considerable damage if left unattended, but show up quite quickly with the plant looking somewhat wilted, and the insects being clearly visible.

Treatment - Spray with a suitable insecticide, being careful to hold an aerosol can at least 20 cm away from the plant, as the propellant is very cold and can damage the leaves.

*From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia*

# Showcase

## *Windy Day*

*Exhibited by: Nancy Price  
From Best AVSA Collection  
2000 AVSA National Show  
Hybridized by: Stork/Boone  
Large*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Rob's Dust Storm*

*Exhibited by: Beverly Williams  
AVS of Canada  
Hybridized by: Ralph Robinson  
Semiminiature*



*Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky*



Photo Credit: Pat Hancock

## *Buckeye Encore*

*New Seedling*

*Grown & Hybridized by:*

*Pat Hancock*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Geisha Girl*

*Hybridized & Exhibited by:*

*Greta Durand*

*AVS of Canada*

*Semiminiature*

# 2001 Vacation Guide

Compiled by David Buttram

Whether planning a trip to the AVSA Convention in Chicago, a visit to family and friends, or a trip into the country, be sure to include a stop at one or more AVSA Commercial members, where the latest African violets will be on display and available

for you. Be sure to pick up that hard-to-find item for growing bigger and better African violets. Please note that several growers are available by appointment only. The necessary arrangements for your visit should be made by mail or phone.

## Violet Boutique

John Deering  
40 Pellam Crescent  
Kanata, Ontario K2K 1J5, Canada  
613-592-3140  
E-mail: john.deering@sympatico.ca  
10-8 by appointment.  
Retail - Minis, Gesneriads, Peter's fertilizer,  
homemade soil

## Aca's Violet Tree

John & Doris Brownlie  
80-600 Silvercreek Blvd.  
Mississauga, ON L5A2B4, Canada  
905-270-6776  
E-mail: jtbrownlie@idirect.com  
Any time by appointment.  
Retail - Standards, Minis, Supplies, Variegates,  
Gesneriads

## Chestnut Country Violets

Lisa DiMambro  
182 Old Chester Tnpk, Chester, NH 03036  
603-887-0352  
E-mail: info@chestnutcountryviolets.com  
By appointment.  
Retail - Standards, Minis, Variegates, limited  
Gesneriads

## Smith's Country Cottage

Geoff. Smith  
109 Ogden Parma T.L. Rd., Spencerport, NY 14559  
716-352-6445  
10-5 Call first.  
Retail, Limited Wholesale - Standards, Minis,  
Variegates, Supplies

## Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Inc.

Paul Sorano  
14 Mutchler St., Dolgeville, NY 13529  
315-429-8291  
8-5 (Mon-Fri), 10-4 (Sat),  
Noon-4 (Sun- Summer only).  
Retail, Wholesale - Standards, Minis, Variegates,  
Gesneriads, Supplies  
From Main St. in Dolgeville, turn on Van Buren St.,  
then onto Mutchler.

## Violet Venture

Fay Wagman  
52 Harper Dr., Pittsford, NY 14534  
716-381-6384  
E-mail: fayw@aol.com  
By appointment - please call ahead. Visitors  
welcome.  
Retail - Standards, Minis, Supplies, Variegates,  
Gesneriads

## Rob's Mini-o-lets (A.K.A. 'The Violet Barn')

Rob & Olive Robinson  
7209 County Rd. 12, P.O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512  
716-374-8592  
Website: www.robsviolet.com  
Noon -5, every day, year round.  
Retail, Wholesale  
African violets, gesneriads, orchids, begonias,  
passiflora, and other unusual and collectible  
houseplants. Supplies. Tours welcome.

## VioletsFun Photo Journal

Rob & Olive Robinson  
7209 County Rd. 12, P.O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512  
716-374-8592  
E-mail: violetsfun@aol.com  
Noon -5, every day, year round.  
Published by Rob's Mini-o-lets, 6 issues per year. A  
full-color magazine with a "fun" look at violet  
growing and experiences.

## Violet Gallery

Mahlen & Brenda Petry  
1590 Cranberry Rd., York Springs, PA 17372  
717-528-8268  
E-mail: mpetry@cvn.net  
By appointment, please call.  
Retail - Standards, Minis, Variegates, Supplies  
Website: www.violetgallery.com

## Tinari Greenhouses

Frank & Anne Tinari  
2325 Valley Rd., Box 190,  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006  
215-947-0144 FAX 215-947-2163  
E-mail: lil@tinarigreenhouses.com  
8-5 (Mon-Sat), 1-5 (Sun) (Closed Sun - June thru  
Sept.).  
Retail - Standards, Minis, Variegates, Supplies.  
We specialize in African Violet arrangements  
for every occasion.  
Website: www.tinarigreenhouses.com

## Violets & More

Eldon & Naomi Martin  
3217 State Line Rd., Waynesboro, PA 17268  
717-762-3576  
10-9 (Mon), 10-6 (Tues, Wed, Fri),  
10-2 (Sat) Closed Thurs & Sun.  
Retail - Standards, Minis (some), Supplies

## Arts & Crafts by Eloisa

Eloisa Wilson  
P.O. Box 220114, Chantilly, VA 20153  
703-815-1984  
24/7 - Internet only: www.violetpots.com  
Retail: Supplies - African violet pots

## Carousel of Violets

Bonnie N. Cheek  
1403-C S. Stratford Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
336-760-2898  
1-5 (Mon) 10-5 (Tues-Sat).  
Retail - Supplies  
Will sell leaves if ordered in advance.

## African Violets by Fredericks, Inc.

Alyce Droege  
51 Union Otto Day Care Rd., Franklin, NC 28734  
1-800-771-0899  
8-4 (Mon-Fri) By appointment Sat & Sun.  
Retail, Wholesale - Standards, Minis, Variegates,  
Gesneriads, Supplies

## Bluebird Greenhouse

Libbie Glembocki  
4821 Jessie Rd., Apex, NC 27502  
919-362-0530 FAX: 919-362-5822  
E-mail: libbie@attglobal.net  
9-12 weekdays. Afternoons & weekends by  
appointment.  
Retail, Wholesale  
Violets, orchids, supplies.  
Website: www.bluebirdgreenhouse.com

## Travis' Violets

Travis & Darlene Davis  
2064 Ellen St., P.O. Box 42, Ochlocknee, GA 31773  
912-574-5236 FAX: 912-574-5605  
E-mail: tviolets@aol.com  
Open 7 days a week (our choice) with an  
appointment.  
Retail, Wholesale  
Blooming plants available from May through  
November, supplies.

## Violets From The Stars

George & Estelle Starr  
2602 Graupera St., Pensacola, FL 32507  
850-456-2662  
E-mail: gbstarr@juno.com  
Call for appointment.  
Retail, Wholesale - Standards, Minis, Variegates,  
Supplies  
Our emphasis is on the "Starlight African Violet  
Lamp"

## Pat's Patch

Pat Hancock  
P. O. Box 8085, 7118 Barrett Rd.  
West Chester, OH 45069  
513-777-2524  
Call for appointment.  
Retail - Standards, Variegates, Strels, Supplies  
Hybridizer of "Buckeye" series of variegated  
standard violets.

Out Of Africa  
OGary S. Mikita  
2842 Brown St., Portage, IN 46368  
219-763-4861  
E-mail: gmikita@netzero.net  
By appointment.  
Standards, Minis, Variegates, Gesneriads, Streps

Belisle's  
Marcia Belisle  
P.O. Box 111, Radisson, WI 54867  
715-945-2687  
By appointment.  
Retail - Standards, Minis, Variegates, Gesneriads

Kent's Flowers  
Kent & Joyce Stork  
2501 E. 23rd, Fremont, NE 68025  
402-721-1478  
E-mail: kents@tvsonline.net  
9-5 (Mon.-Sat.) Closed Sun.  
Retail, Supplies

The Violet Showroom  
Shannon & Pam Ahlman  
2605 Brahma, Grand Island, NE 68801  
308-382-2554 FAX: 308-382-2234  
E-mail: sahlman1@aol.com  
By appointment only.  
Retail, Wholesale, Supplies

Pat's Pets  
Gary & Pat Dunlap  
4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050  
636-789-3604  
E-mail: patspets@jcn1.com  
Please contact us for appointment.  
Retail, Wholesale, Supplies  
Internet catalog at [www.jcn1.com/patspets](http://www.jcn1.com/patspets)

Dave's Violets  
David Harris  
1372 S. Kentwood Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65804-0220  
417-887-8904 E-mail: plantman@ipa.net  
By appointment only.  
Retail, Wholesale

Sonja's Violets  
Sonja J. Holm  
15980 W. Warden Rd., Omaha, AR 72662  
870-426-1791  
By appointment.  
Standard plants, large blossoms.

Teas Nursery  
Teas Family  
4400 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, TX 77401  
713-664-4400 FAX: 713-295-5144  
E-mail: teas@teasnursery.com  
8:30-6:30 (Mon.- Fri.), 8-6 (Sat.), 9-6 (Sun.)  
Retail, Supplies  
Website: [www.teasnursery.com](http://www.teasnursery.com)

JoS Violets  
Joanne Schnmsher  
2205 College Dr., Victoria, TX 77901  
361-575-1344  
E-mail: geoffrey@icsi.net  
Visitors by appointment.  
Retail, Wholesale, Supplies

African Violet Shop  
Lenora Munk  
2015 Bauer Dr., Houston, TX 77080-5524  
713-468-0844  
9-4 (Thanks for call first).  
Retail - Standards, Variegates, Gesneriads, Supplies

Shirley's House of Violets  
Sandy & Shirley Sanders  
1034 Rayburn Dr., San Antonio, TX 78221  
9-5 (Mon-Fri).  
Retail - Standards, Minis, Variegates, Soil, Pots,  
Fertilizer

Hill Country African Violets & Nursery  
Ken Froboese  
32005 L.H. 10 West, Boerne, TX 78006  
830-249-2614 FAX: 830-249-8658  
8-6, 7 days a week.  
Retail, Supplies  
NO LISTS - NO SHIPPING Complete retail nursery  
Visitors welcome

Victoria's Sign of the Dove  
Blanche V. Mercaldi  
6321 Ridgecrest #154, Dallas, TX 75382  
1-877-505-3683  
Website: [www.victoria-dove.com](http://www.victoria-dove.com)  
By appointment.  
Retail - My specialty is Episcias.

Volkman Bros. Greenhouses, Inc.  
Henry & Walter Volkman  
3714 Old Settlers Rd., Flower Mound, TX 75022  
972-539-7714 FAX: 972-874-2361  
9-5 (Mon- Sat.) 1-5 (Sun.).  
Retail, Wholesale, Supplies  
No catalog this year.

The Violet Showcase  
Douglas & Barbara Crispin  
3147 So. Broadway, Englewood, CO 80110  
303-761-1770 FAX: 303-762-1808  
E-mail: violet\_showcase@compuserve.com  
10-5 daily. Closed Tues & Sun.  
Retail - Standards, Minis, Variegates, Gesneriads,  
Supplies

Hattie Baggett's African Violets  
Hattie Baggett  
HCR 2, Box 381, 11320 West Park Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85735-9714  
520-822-5060  
9-4. Tues through Sat.  
Retail, Wholesale - Standards, Variegates & Plain

Maril Products, Inc.  
Anne & Tom Whitehair  
320 West 6th St., Tustin, CA 92780  
714-544-7711  
E-mail: [physan@earthlink.net](mailto:physan@earthlink.net)

7-4 (Mon-Thurs) 7-12 (Fri).  
Retail, Wholesale - Supplies  
We manufacture and sell Physan 20 greenhouse  
disinfectant - a great product for use with  
African violets.

African Violet Author  
Melvin J. Robey  
53-400 Eisenhower Dr., La Quinta CA 92253  
760-771-3343  
Arranged upon request.  
Books only.

Dyna-Gro  
David Neal  
1065 Broadway, San Pablo, CA 94806  
510-233-0254  
E-mail: [info@dyna-gro.com](mailto:info@dyna-gro.com)  
8:30-4 (Mon.- Fri.).  
Retail, Wholesale - Supplies (Fertilizer, media)

Mighty Minis  
Jeannie Stokes  
7318 Sahara Court, Sacramento, CA 95828-3905  
916-421-7284  
8-5 (Mon.-Fri.) and weekends by appointment.  
Retail, Wholesale, Supplies

Alannah's Greenhouses  
Alannah Regan  
Box 2, Danville, WA 99121  
250-442-2552  
Website: [www.alannah.com](http://www.alannah.com)  
By appointment.  
Retail - Standards, Minis, Variegates, Gesneriads,  
Mail Order

A New Leaf, Inc.  
Kim Falcon (Exec. Director)  
2306 South First Place, Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
918-451-1491  
7:30-5:30 (Mon - Fri) 10-3 (Sat - April, May, June).  
Retail - Standards, Minis, Variegates

Midland Violets  
Don & Jean Ness  
3667 Midland Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
651-429-4109  
By appointment only.  
Retail - Standards, Minis, Variegates

The Green Thumb  
Liz Cassidy  
11884 Claude Ct., Northglenn, CO 80233  
(Just north of Denver)  
303-452-4847  
Irregular hours - call first.  
Retail - Standards, Supplies

Beverly's Violets & Gifts  
Beverly Hendricks  
6311 DeBarr Rd., Russian Jack Plaza  
Anchorage, AK  
907-338-5551  
12-5:30 (Tues - Sat).  
Standards, Minis, Variegates, Rob's Streps, Supplies.  
I have 3,000 to 4,000 plants growing in my  
shop.

# Showcases

## *Cirelda*

*Exhibited by: Judith Carter*

*Hybridized by: P. Tracey*

*Semiminiature Trailer*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Desir*

*Exhibited by: Doris Brownlie*

*Hybridized by: D. Croteau*

*AVS of Canada*

*Large*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*





*Buckeye  
Irresistable*

*Hybridized & Exhibited by:  
Pat Hancock*

*Photo Credit: Pat Hancock*



*Sinningia  
'Mercury'*

*Exhibited by: Bruce Young  
AVS of Canada*

*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



# AVSA Affiliates

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*  
P. O. Box 64 • Clintwood, VA 24228  
[Promers22@hotmail.com](mailto:Promers22@hotmail.com)

Did you know that AVSA is a tax-exempt and non-profit organization? Your affiliate may or may not be, and, may or may not want to be.

AVSA is tax-exempt under 501(c)(3) status as an educational nonprofit organization. AVSA affiliates are not tax-exempt under the "group ruling". That means that they are not tax-exempt under the umbrella of AVSA's status with the IRS. It is important to AVSA that each club be allowed to operate the way that the area and members desire. The number of members, the activities, the sales, the gross income, the club constitution and bylaws all influence the need or desire to apply for the tax-exempt status.

Does this mean that your affiliate is not considered a non-profit organization and has to pay taxes? Not at all! Questions from several affiliates prompted me to do some research that I hope will be helpful. **Most of our affiliates are non-profit but do not need or want to file for tax-exempt status with the IRS.** An organization may qualify for exemption from federal income tax if it is organized and operated exclusively for one or more of the following purposes. Among them are "charitable" and "educational", under which most of our affiliates would qualify. If your affiliate is organized for one or both of these purposes, it is probably automatically considered non-profit as long as the affiliate's gross receipts are no more than \$5,000 a year. If your affiliate wants to make sure that it qualifies, a member of your club should contact the IRS or check out the IRS web site for more detailed information.

Should your affiliate desire to apply to the IRS to be tax-exempt, there are three steps involved. First, apply for a Federal Employer Identification Number. Your affiliate may already have this number if it set up an account at a local bank for banking purposes. A club can set up a bank account under a club member's Social Security Number. In time, however, there are advantages in changing it to an account under its own Federal Employee Identification Number. That can be done using Form SS4, a one page form that is available from the IRS, on the internet, or at most local banks. In using the Federal Employee ID Number, your affiliate may avoid paying all or many of the charges many banks require today. Some banks don't have different charges for individuals or for non-profit organizations so it might not make any difference. Another factor to consider is that because clubs and organizations change their treasurers and officers, an account under the Employer ID Number can be changed each time it is needed.

An account under a SSN can never be changed to another treasurer or club member.

Secondly, the affiliate needs to fill out Form 1023 (Application for Recognition of Exemption). I understand that this form is probably about twenty pages in length, about nine of which you will need to complete. It will also require information from some bank records. Lastly, the affiliate will need to complete 8718 (User Fee for Exempt Organization Determination Letter Request) accompanied by a check in the amount of \$150, the minimum required to be accepted for federal tax-exempt status.

It may or not be beneficial for most affiliates to apply for the tax-exempt status with the IRS. The benefits include (1) no federal taxes on any gross receipts over \$5,000 and (2) discounts on bulk mailing through the postal service. Non-profit organizations are already exempt from paying federal taxes on \$5,000 gross income without applying for the tax-exempt status. So, if your club does not gross more than the \$5,000 a year, it probably would not have to pay any federal taxes anyway.

I have tried to keep this information basic and simple. Should any affiliate have more questions on its non-profit or tax-exempt status, one can access answers on the internet at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call the IRS using the following 800 numbers: For non-profit organizations without tax-exempt status: 800-829-1040. For tax-exempt organizations: 877-829-5500.

I do want to clarify that my research was done in reference to affiliates that qualify under the US Government. Any affiliate outside the US should contact the tax department in its country in order to abide by its requirements.

I would be remiss if I didn't discuss, to some extent, state requirements regarding taxes and tax status. Because my space is limited, I will continue that part of the discussion in a future column.

Be sure that the secretary of your affiliate sends a postcard or an e-mail listing the new president and mailing address to the AVSA Office so that your affiliate will be listed in the September listing of affiliates with the current information. Even if your president remains the same, assure that your affiliate will be listed correctly by mailing that information to the AVSA Office as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Chicago in a few weeks. Don't forget the Affiliate Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 30 at 4:30 p.m.



**Barbara Elkin**  
*Vintage Violet Committee*  
2855 Gayle Lane  
Auburn, CA 95602-9674  
*email: bjabar@earthlink.net*

Having been married for 52 years, I am well used to masculine doings and things. There is Clyde, our miniature donkey, who is very masculine and of course, there is Beau the dog, who at times thinks he's masculine, all three pounds of him. We raised two handsome sons and have three handsome grandsons.

Now I deal with another problem. A very, masculine computer. I know it is masculine because it is so confused. It has a very high testosterone level. Yes, confused. I tell it one thing, and it tells me another. I tell it to print and it does something else. Oh well, I guess one can get used to anything. I'll just have to out-guess it. (Don't we ladies do that all the time?).

Now mind you, I'm not confused. I had the opportunity to travel to Denver last November and was asked, "Do you still grow 'Double Black Cherry'?" My answer of course was that it died. Not so, it is well and happy in my collection. Leaves anyone? Remember, it grows very large! How could I have missed it? I think I had a masculine moment.

## ALL THINGS MASCULINE

The following plants were all found thanks to Barbara Cook, Eleanor, Janet, Karen, Nancy, Tammy and all of you that responded to my plea for Vintage Violets.

Ablaze, Abracadabra, Andante, Black Russian, Brin d' Amour, Cashmere Pink, Cranapple, Coon Valley, Cynde, Diamond Jubilee, Disco Dancing, Dixie Moonbeam, Dolly Dimples, Easter Eggs, Ednah Dee, Granger's Charl, Granger's Lullaby, Grape Splash, Gypsy Trail, Jealous Pink, Ohio Sunset, Pagan Pink, Pink Patti, Pink Shimmer, Rob's Green Jeans, Shockwave (Whitaker), Trail Along and Ultra Violet Saturn, Utz' Texas Charmer, Witch Doctor, Winter Ice, and Wintroy Rose.

Remember, when someone is good enough to share with you, always return the postage, asked for or not.

### AVSA Most Wanted

Blue Bonnet  
Irene

Luziana (Sisk)  
Optimara Alabama

Pink Ruffled  
Jade

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## AFRICAN VIOLETS FOR A SPECIAL FRIEND

As told to Barbara Werness

By Patricia Addison

My life here in Anchorage, AK, revolves around being a wife, mother of three teenagers, doing child day care, taking college courses and running a small business. My love of plants prompted "Plants on Purpose", through which I sell mostly African violets, other gesneriads and some orchids. It is a very personally, if not particularly financially, rewarding endeavor. I do most of my selling through sales in conjunction with our Aurora Borealis AV Society; however, many personal customers come to my home.

Knowing my busy schedule, Marie, a long-time customer, called very early to be sure I would be home. She needed to stop by in the morning to buy some African violets because she would be at a funeral in the afternoon. No problem, it was a fairly free day for me.

Now, Marie has been stopping by for several years. It is always fun. She would spend a fair amount of time picking

out several African violets. One of her selections was always a gift for her best and dearest friend, Lydia. It was Lydia's one and only favorite plant. Then we would start the "can't we consider lowering the price" discussions. Most often I would cut her a deal.

This time, however, she entered my plant room, went straight for my best African violets and picked out six absolute beauties. I mentioned that they all ranged from \$10 to \$15 each. She turned and looked at me with a tear in her eyes and said, "I don't care. The funeral I'm going to is Lydia's and it is the last gift I will ever be able to give her."

She took the plants to a florist who set them into an arrangement for the funeral. Yes, by the next day, those beautiful plants were all frozen. But what a perfect and loving farewell to a special friend who loved African violets.

# Showcase

## *Von's Friend Syl*

Exhibited by: **Greta Durand**

Hybridized by: **Y. Lambert**

AVS of Canada

Standard



Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

## *Episcia 'Silver Sheen'*

Exhibited by: **Beverly Williams**

AVS of Canada



Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Optimara Michelangelo*

*Exhibited by: Bruce Young*

*Hybridized by: Holtkamp*

*AVS of Canada*

*Standard*

# Enjoying Your Violets at Work

by Felicia K. Wdowiak

I take it as a complement when my coworkers sneak up to my desk and pet my violets "just to see if they are real"! I giggle when they seem astonished to discover that they are, indeed, real. Of course, the very next statements are, "I could never do this!", "How do you do it?", "I always kill mine.", "My mother could grow them, but I can't!"...and the list goes on. I am always happy, at this point to share how easy it is to grow violets, both at home and at work.

While I can recognize that maybe 1 in 500 people at work (I work for a big company!!) will truly share my passion for violets, most people just want a pretty flowering plant to enjoy. This is such an obtainable goal, and I am so happy to provide them with a starter, or help them prepare the violet that they select themselves.

Back in the dark ages, I was lucky to have a magnificent office with two complete walls with glass windows and a ledge. I say "dark ages" because I lined that ledge with all the violets I could fit in the prettiest clay pots. And, I did not repot them for two years! I did manage to pluck off the dead leaves, though. They still bloomed again and again, necky and all; such is the wonder of over fertilization and good light. I still maintain my credence that if you look at a violet it will grow; they are hardy little creatures! Needless to say, I joined my local violet club and they gasped when I told them all about my beautiful violets ... in the clay pots! I am on track now with plastic pots, wicks and wells. I have entered two shows, am a student judge, and have won a couple of ribbons, all because I enjoyed my violets at work. I consider helping others learn to enjoy violets at work my mission! These are a few tips I have found to be helpful.

1. Pick a strong plant. As seasoned growers, we have had more experience with a variety of plants and our knowledge is valuable; some varieties are just easier to grow and hardier than others.
2. Totally disbud your plant for eight weeks prior to bringing it to work. By totally disbudding, you allow the plant to give all its gusto to leaves. When it comes to the office,

it will be ready to bloom.

3. Keep the violet on a well. By wicking your plant in its plastic pot, you will have even moisture and won't have to worry about over or under watering. There are ways to hide the well if you feel it is unsightly, or you can use one of the ceramic violet pots available.
4. Keep a jug of pre-measured fertilized water. You will have the appropriate food for your violet ready at hand.
5. Lighting situations vary from office to office. If you have ambient natural light near a window, place your violet there, but be sure to give it a turn every other day to keep it symmetrical. When winter comes, you will need to find another home, though...no cold feet! If you have an under-cabinet fluorescent light, placing your violet there is a good solution. I find that a small white plastic-coated wire riser shelf (these can be found in the storage section of most Wal-Mart or home supply stores) is particularly useful, as you can get the plant closer to the light and still have usage under the shelf. Be certain to turn your light off at the end of the day.
6. Desktop display. The goal of pretty plants is to display them! I keep mine on display on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and under the light on Tuesday and Thursday. Be prepared for broken leaves and flowers, such is the rough terrain of offices! But we all know where there is one violet, there are many, many more!

Many of the violets I bring to work, as I rotate them on a regular basis, are often my personal rejects. They may not be symmetrical enough, or blossom true, or I have another duplicate that is just a bit better, or I am just ready to move onto another new variety. But to others, they seem wondrous and amazing. I had one in particular that had sported from a fantasy to a solid. Half the blossoms were sport and the other half solid. One bloom stalk had half blossom fantasy and half solid. Someone came up and said to me, "Look what you made that plant do! You really know how to grow these violets!" I just smiled and said, "You can too!"

## In Memory

### ARLENE PAPPAS

Arlene Pappas, member of the Thousand Oaks AVS, CA, passed away in September 2000. Arlene served the club as Membership Secretary and was an award - winning grower, always ready to share her knowledge. Arlene was famous for her Greek desserts.

### "RONNIE" PETERSON

"Ronnie" Peterson of Downey, CA, passed away in February, 2001. A longtime member of AVSA, Ronnie propagated, sold, and gave away African violets that she grew in her 4500 sq. ft. greenhouse in her backyard. Ronnie specialized in miniature and trailing African violets and was a registered nurse.

# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

May Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Tue. 9:16 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
2 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
3 Thu. 11:50 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
4 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
5 Sat.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
6 Sun. 3:00 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
7 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd 8:53 am
8 Tue. 8:05 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
9 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
10 Thu. 4:10 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
11 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
12 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
13 Sun. 3:20 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
14 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
15 Tue. 4:01 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th 5:11 am
16 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
17 Thu.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
18 Fri. 3:41 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
19 Sat.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
20 Sun. 12:29 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
21 Mon.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
22 Tue. 6:12 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st 9:46 pm
23 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
24 Thu. 9:42 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
25 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
26 Sat.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
27 Sun. 12:12 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
28 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
29 Tue. 2:38 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd 5:09 pm
30 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
31 Thu. 5:41 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd

June Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
2 Sat. 9:56 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
3 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
4 Mon. 3:58 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
5 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd 8:59 pm
6 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
7 Thu. 12:23 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
8 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
9 Sat. 11:20 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
10 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
11 Mon. 11:53 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
12 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
13 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th 10:28 pm
14 Thu. 12:03 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
15 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
16 Sat. 9:39 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
17 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
18 Mon.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
19 Tue. 3:42 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
20 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
21 Thu. 6:40 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st 6:58 am
22 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
23 Sat. 7:55 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
24 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
25 Mon. 8:57 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
26 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
27 Wed. 11:11 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd 10:19 pm
28 Thu.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	2nd
29 Fri. 3:28 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
30 Sat.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd

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# Your Research Dollars at Work ...

## Cold Water Damage in African Violets

Larry W. Barnes  
Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist  
Texas A&M University

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Contact of African violet foliage by cold water can cause significant damage to the leaves that can be mis-diagnosed.

### Symptoms of Cold Water Damage

Cold water that contacts the leaf surface often results in bright yellow “blotches” or “ringspots” that develop across the surface of an otherwise healthy green leaf (Figs 1, 2). The damage is usually distributed randomly across the leaf



**Fig 1. Typical chlorophyll loss in African violet leaves damaged from cold water exposure.**

surface or wherever droplets of cold water are deposited onto the leaf surface.

Do not confuse the symptoms with symptoms caused by *virus infection*. While virus infection can cause ringspots and chlorosis, the sudden onset of the symptoms and the lack of further development of additional symptoms, if additional cold water exposure does not recur, generally rules out virus.

### How Does Cold Water Damage?

Water that is as little as 10° F colder than the leaf temperature can cause leaf damage. Cold water damages the cell wall leaf palisade layer of cells, resulting in loss of chlorophyll. This tissue damage is permanent and, although the leaf will generally not deteriorate further, the chlorotic

symptom will remain for the life of the individual leaf involved.

### How Can Damage be Avoided?

Avoid wetting the foliage. If the foliage must be wetted, as in the case of foliar application of a fungicide or insecticide, mix the pesticide in water that is at or slightly above root temperature. Room temperature water will generally be at the same temperature as the African violet foliage, and no significant temperature differential will occur between the leaf and water temperatures.

Similar leaf damage can also result if water that is significantly warmer than the leaf temperature contacts the leaf surface. Again, use room temperature water if the foliage must be wetted for any reason.



**Fig 2. Ringspot-type lesions resulting from cold water damage.**

It is generally a good idea to keep a small container of water near the violets for use in mixing pesticides and for other uses where water must be applied to the leaf surface. Water that is tempered in this way should be at the same temperature as the violet leaves and should be safe to use with little likelihood of leaf injury.

### Damage to Related Species

Similar damage from cold or warm water can occur on related gesneriads such as gloxinia and episcia.



# Do you have Show Fever or Show Fright?

by Carolee Carter • Morgan Hill, California

With show season beginning, many of us are busily preparing our plants and keeping our fingers crossed that at least some will be worthy enough to enter. Over the years, I've witnessed many growers who are struggling to learn the tricks to growing those gorgeous African violets that win the top prizes two or three of their club members always seem to win. So, they chicken out at the last minute and are afraid to enter anything for fear of embarrassment.

Here are some tips to ponder if you're beginning to have those pre-show jitters:

Don't feel that your plant has to be a certain size for it to win a blue ribbon. A fellow grower always managed to enter standard plants that were twelve to fifteen inches in width. My standards looked like semi-minis against hers. But, monster plants don't always take home Best in Show. A blue-ribbon plant is a blue-ribbon plant regardless of its size if everything else considered is intact. (Remember, however, that semi-miniatures cannot be more than eight inches in diameter, and miniatures, six.)

Judges don't look at what's wrong with a plant. They look at what's right with it first. They're not the "demons" you might imagine them to be. They grow violets too and know all the pitfalls because they have probably experienced them. They're thoughtful and want to encourage, not discourage you from growing African violets.

More important, be assured they understand the growing habits of certain varieties as well as their behavior traits. They take points off for such things that can be corrected during your growing process. Become familiar with AVSA's *Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*. Inside its pages are exactly what the judges look for and how many points will be deducted for each consideration. Look at your

own plant and see whether or not the imperfections add up to more than ten points. If you can't spot enough, you probably have a blue ribbon plant.

Be sure and remove those outer leaves that are spent or are smaller than the leaves above them - and repot if too many are removed and the plant's neck is exposed. Don't think a judge will not discover that you are disguising a neck by mounding a hill of soil around it. It doesn't work. And, a last-minute check for dirt particles and spent blossoms have saved many a plant from a red ribbon. I really mean last minute - the morning of the show just before the judges begin their process.

Last, by all means, don't be shy. Don't feel you will be held up to ridicule if you decide to exhibit a borderline plant. Who's to say that every plant in that particular category might not be borderline, and yours just might be better than everyone else's? If the experience of exhibiting is that bad, do you think the rest of us would bother to show up? The point of it all is to learn. And, you can only gain that learning experience by participation. When your plant is critiqued, the judge is not directing criticism to you personally. He or she is offering ideas by which that plant might have won that blue ribbon. The judge's comments on your exhibitor's form are particularly helpful in letting you know where points were deducted when the judges considered your plant. If there are no comments, seek out one of the judges and ask them to tell you. They will be happy to let you know what you could have done to win that blue or Best in Class ribbon.

The result of all of this effort is that you will hopefully begin to lay the groundwork for definite improvement from year to year. We want everyone to get show fever instead of having show fright.

## *The Night Before the Convention*

by Edward Johnson

*'Twas the night before the convention when all through the house,*

*The wife was still packing, as quiet as a mouse.*

*The standards, minis, and trailers were packed with care and all counted twice, to be sure they were all there.*

*With shoes at the ready and I in my cap, we had settled down for a short little nap.*

*When out on the driveway, there arose such a clatter, I sprang to the window to see what was the matter.*

*The violets were loaded in the car just so and the wife blowing the horn, all ready to go.*

*The moon was starting to set in the east, as the morning glow came over the crest.*

*On Chevy with violets to the place of the show, we can't wait to get there, it's the only place to go.*

*On our way to the show, what should appear but another car-load of violets coming up from the rear.*

*We dashed for the show room with thoughts all aglow, of winning blue ribbons and Queen of the show.*

*Her eyes, how they twinkled, in her heart was a song, her cheeks were like roses, her worries all gone.*

*We have friends everywhere and make more each day, the whole world would be friends, if violets had their way.*

*And as the snow closes I'm sure that you'll hear, "Good luck with your violets dear friend, see you next year!"*

*From African-violet and Gesneriad News*

# Registration Report



**Iris Keating**  
149 Loretto Court  
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

## Kent Stork – Fremont, NE

- \***Aunt Georgia** (8922) 1/8/01 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble rose two-tone pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Aunt Irene** (8923) 1/8/01 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double pink pansy. Medium green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Benediction** (8924) 1/8/01 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble lavender two-tone large frilled star. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- \***Buffalo Hunt** (8925) 1/8/01 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double red frilled pansy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- \***Chinook Wind** (8926) 1/8/01 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble red-coral pansy. Medium-dark green, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- \***Omaha Thunder** (8927) 1/8/01 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble dark red star. Medium-dark green, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- \***Salmon Ella** (8928) 1/8/01 (K. Stork) Double salmon-coral ruffled star. Dark green/red back. **Standard**
- \***Tropical Heat Wave** (8929) 1/8/01 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble dark coral-rose large frilled star. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Alma Hummer – San Antonio, TX

- \***His Margie** (8930) 1/16/01 (A. Hummer) Semidouble purple. **Variiegated** green and pink, plain. **Standard**
- \***Joyful Janey** (8931) 1/16/01 (A. Hummer) Semidouble purple/thin green edge. **Variiegated** green and white, plain. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Dolores Harrington – Fridley, MN

- \***David Alan** (8932) 1/18/01 (D. Harrington) Single red sticktite star/white ruffled edge. Medium-dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, hairy. **Standard**
- \***Dean Stanley** (8933) 1/18/01 (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble medium pink ruffled pansy/variable thin burgundy edge. Medium-dark green, quilted, hairy. **Standard**
- \***Jettie** (8934) 1/18/01 (D. Harrington) Double dark blue ruffled pansy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Lucille Woolever** (8935) 1/18/01 (D. Harrington) Semidouble-double pink shaded pansy/variable white edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Mariah** (8936) 1/18/01 (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble medium pink pansy/red eye. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Steven Dennis** (8937) 1/18/01 (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble red ruffled pansy. Medium-dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, pebbled. **Standard**
- \***Wild Red** (8938) 1/18/01 (D. Harrington) Double red pansy. Medium-dark green, heart-shaped, quilted. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Reinhold Holtkamp – Nashville, TN

(Each of the following Optimara and Rhapsodie names is patented.®)

- \***Optimara Auckland** (8939) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Semidouble-double dark blue frilled/white overlay, blue edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Large**
- \***Optimara Bolero** (8940) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single vivid pink sticktite/darker eye. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Bora Bora** (8941) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single burgundy sticktite/white frilled edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

- \***Optimara California II** (8942) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble vivid red ruffled. Medium-dark green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Cezanne** (8943) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Semidouble-double bright pink/purple fantasy. Light-medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Cha Cha** (8944) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single dark purple-blue sticktite. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Chagall** (8945) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white/variable dark blue patches. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Charleston** (8946) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/darker-circled lilac patches on lower petals. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Degas II** (8947) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white sticktite ruffled/dark pink patches on lower petals, variable pink on top petals. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Fiji** (8948) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Double dark blue/long petals, white edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Flamenco** (8949) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single dark purple-red sticktite/wide white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Hula Hula** (8950) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Semidouble-double vivid purple to dark lilac/white edge. Medium green, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Jamaica** (8951) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble red/white frilled edge. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Jitterbug** (8952) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble red/white edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Kansas II** (8953) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Semidouble white ruffled star/vivid purple-red patches. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy/red back. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Lambada** (8954) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single lilac two-tone sticktite/darker top petals. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Little Arapahoe** (8955) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white/variable light purple-blue tinge. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy. **Semiminiature**
- \***Optimara Little Chickasaw** (8956) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single pink two-tone sticktite/white-green edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Optimara Little Creek** (8957) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single pink two-tone sticktite/darker top petals. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy. **Semiminiature**
- \***Optimara Little Hopi II** (8958) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble pink/purple fantasy. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Optimara Little Inca** (8959) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single blue sticktite. Light green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Semiminiature**
- \***Optimara Little Maya** (8960) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble red/variable white edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Optimara Little Ottawa** (8961) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Double pink. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped/red back.. **Semiminiature**
- \***Optimara Little Pawnee** (8962) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single medium blue sticktite. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Optimara Maine II** (8963) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white frilled sticktite/purple-blue eye, wide purple edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Mexico City** (8964) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single purple-blue sticktite large ruffled star. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Large**
- \***Optimara Millennia** (8965) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/purple-red striped lower petals. Medium-dark green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy/red back. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Mississippi II** (8966) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Semidouble bright pink/white frilled edge. Medium-dark green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Nebraska II** (8967) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble burgundy-red/wide white frilled edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Ontario II** (8968) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white sparkle sticktite. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Polka** (8969) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single light blue sticktite. Medium green, heart-shaped to pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Renoir** (8970) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single pink sticktite/purple fantasy. Dark green, plain, glossy, hairy/red back. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Rio de Janiero** (8971) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/purple-blue edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy. **Large**
- \***Optimara Romance** (8972) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble pink/darker eye. **Variogated** green and pinkish cream, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Rumba** (8973) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Semidouble white wavy/lilac to dark lilac patches on tips. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Small standard**

- \***Optimara Seurat** (8974) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white ruffled sticktite/variable pink patches. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Shimmy** (8975) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white ruffled/purple-red tips and edge; variable white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Semiminiature**
- \***Optimara Surprise** (8976) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single pink frilled sticktite/purple fantasy. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy. **Standard**
- \***Optimara Tango** (8977) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/purple-blue patches on lower petals, variable on top petals. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Twist** (8978) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white frilled sticktite/purple-blue eye, edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Two-step** (8979) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white/burgundy-pink patches. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy/red back. **Small standard**
- \***Optimara Waltz** (8980) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Semidouble pink. Light-medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Small standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Agnes** (8981) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single dark blue sticktite. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Small standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Candy II** (8982) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white and purple-pink sticktite/variable white edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Cora** (8983) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white frilled/dark purple patches. Medium-dark green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Deborah** (8984) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Double white ruffled/dark purple-red patches. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy/red back. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Gloria** (8985) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Semidouble-double white frilled/purple-blue eye, thin purple edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Hisaku** (8986) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single dark blue sticktite star/white frilled edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Ilona** (8987) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single pink sticktite/purple-red eye. Medium-dark green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Jennie II** (8988) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/thin purple-blue edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Jo Ann** (8989) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single pink sticktite/darker eye. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Katja** (8990) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single grayish light blue sticktite/darker eye, top petals. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Kazuko** (8991) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Loretta II** (8992) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Double dark pink/darker top petals. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Margit III** (8993) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single dark blue sticktite. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Small standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Michelle II** (8994) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single pale pink two-tone sticktite large star/darker eye, white edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy/red back. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Patsy** (8995) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white frilled sticktite/purple-blue eye, edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Rosalie II** (8996) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white frilled sticktite/bright pink patches. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Ruth** (8997) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/burgundy-purple eye, thin burgundy-purple frilled edge. Medium green, plain, ovate to pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Sabrina II** (8998) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single light salmon-pink sticktite/variable white eye. Dark green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Rhapsodie Stephanie II** (8999) 1/31/01 (Holtkamp) Single medium blue sticktite. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**

#### NAME RESERVATION

Dolores Harrington – Fridley, MN

\* Perry Keith



# Additional Awards for the Chicago Convention Show

Linda Golubski - AVSA Awards Chairman

## Specified Awards-Amateur Division

2nd Best Other Gesneriad	\$25.00	
Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society		
Best Variegated Standard	\$15.00	
Hoosier AV Society		
Best Variegated Semiminiature	\$10.00	
Hoosier AV Society		
Best Standard White Blossom	\$10.00	Out of Africa
Best Standard Fantasy Blossom	\$10.00	Out of Africa
Best Streptocarpus	\$5.00	Out of Africa
Judge's Special Award	\$10.00	
Old Dominion AV Society of Northern Virginia		

## Specified Awards-Design Division

Best Design	\$15.00	
Twin Cities AV Society In Memory of Ruth Tiedeman		

## Other Awards-Design Division

\$25.00 Donated By	\$15.00 Donated By
Albuquerque AV Club	Reno/Sparks AV Society

**\$10.00 Donated By**  
Quannapowitt AV Club

## Other Awards

\$100.00 Donated By	\$50.00 Donated By
North Star AV Council	Shirley's House of Violets

<b>\$25.00 Donated By</b>	
AV Judges Council of Southern California	Susan Hoffmann
Barrington Bloomers	Maurice and Jackie Jones

## \$25.00 Donated By

Beaumont AV Society	Orange County AV Society
Capitol City AV Society	Oshkosh Violet Society
Dolores Gibbs	

## \$20.00 Donated By

Acree Creations	Mary & Pete Walbrick
AV Club of Morris County	Wisconsin Judges Council

## \$15.00 Donated By

AV Society of San Francisco	Parmatown AV Club
Burbank AV Club	Reno/Sparks AV Society
Central Florida AV Society	Richmond AV Society

## \$10.00 Donated By

Carol Callaghan	Nite Bloomers AV Society
Kevin Degner	Quannapowitt AV Club
Delaware AV Society	Springfield AV Club
First AV Society of Wichita Falls	

## EASY MONEY!

Want to earn some easy money? All you have to do is exhibit at the Chicago Convention and win a Best In Class. This year has been outstanding for cash contributions. We have set a new record in the amount of money that will be awarded at the Friday night banquet. It has always been my objective to entice conventioners to be exhibitors. I hope that I have dangled enough carrots in front of you to bring at least an exhibit or two. Please bring your plants and/or designs and you could win Best In Show!

Many thanks for supporting our convention show by your cash and gift donations. They are greatly appreciated!

## Annual AVSA Convention Auction It's Not Too Late!!

Attention all Affiliates, Hybridizers, Commercials, and individual members - it's not too late to make a violet related donation to our fourth annual luncheon auction. We can really use your help. Donations are still being sought for the Saturday luncheon auction. We will gladly accept items such as crafts, supplies, or newly introduced plant material of all types or any other violet related item of a unique and desirable nature that you may wish to donate.

If you wish to donate items, please notify me as soon as possible. Kindly provide me with information regarding the item's description, its approximate value, and whether you are sending them on ahead or bringing it to convention.

Just as a reminder, you must attend the luncheon banquet

in order to participate in the auction. As well as getting a great seat, this allows you to have an enjoyable meal with your friends and acquaintances. Also, you will get a last minute opportunity to view the auction items.

Won't you join us at the luncheon and please consider donating an item to help AVSA?

Send notice of intent to donate to:	Please send items to:
<b>Edna Rourke</b>	<b>Carol Allegretti</b>
99 Old Stratford Rd	213 Westgate Street
Shelton, CT 06484	Woodstock, IL 60098
1-203-926-9716	
Apapillon@aol.com	

*"I water my plants at least once a week, and wonder what I should do with them while away on a two to three week vacation?"*

## Violet Vacation Vitals

by Anne Tinari

Summertime always brings me an avalanche of mail and telephone calls from African violet enthusiasts seeking advice about how to keep their plants healthy while they are away on vacation. They are torn between leaving their beautiful plants with a plant sitter or trusting an inexperienced person to carry out instructions. However, other solutions are available that can ensure your African violets are correctly watered not only when you are away, but throughout the year.

If you plan to be absent for a few days to several weeks, consider two-piece, self-watering ceramic pots (Fig. 1) that keep plants moist by absorbing water from a reservoir. Pot the plant in the inner container, then place it in the outer pot. The unglazed bottom allows water to slowly soak through and rise from the reservoir. Simply add the recommended amount of fertilizer to the water. These pots are inexpensive and available in many pastel colors.

Wick-fed pots also work well. Made of light plastic material, these two-section pots (Fig. 2) transport nutrient solution to the plant by a fiberglass or nylon wick that dangles through a hole in the bottom of the upper pot. Plant the *Saintpaulia* or other gesneriad into the upper pot and run the wick up the inside of the pot, leaving an inch or two to reach the see-through reservoir that holds the water and fertilizer.

Create your own wick planter by using a margarine tub as a reservoir (Fig. 3). Cut a small hole in the center of the lid for the wick, and then cut a larger hole near the edge of the

lid to add the water. Use a fiberglass or nylon wick about 6 inches long, wetting it on both ends. Fray the ends to encourage moisture distribution.

Another option is capillary mats. Available at many garden centers and most mail-order greenhouse supply companies, the synthetic fiber mat looks like cotton cloth. These lightweight fiber materials moisten plants by capillary action. Place them in the bottom of a tray, add water, and place a wick in each pot placed on the mat. Matting can also act like a giant wick if it is in contact with a reservoir of water.

There are several other innovative ways to keep plants moist, yet not over-watered, during a temporary absence. Set them on well-soaked bricks placed on thick mats of paper. Water-soaked newspapers placed in a tray, or even several inches of course vermiculite also work.

Another suggestion is to group plants together and surround the pots with wet sand, sphagnum moss, peat moss, or vermiculite. They'll remain in good growing condition for many days with sufficient light and air circulation. If they are under fluorescent lights, set a timer to turn the lights on and off each day.

To reduce water loss in a light garden, cover it with a large sheet of polyethylene (such as a painter's drop sheet), and leave an open area for proper air circulation.



Fig. 1: *Saintpaulia* 'Andrena' in a popular style two-piece, self-watering ceramic pot.



Fig. 2: *Saintpaulia* 'Francois' in a commercial wick-fed pot and reservoir combination.



Fig. 3: *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields' wick-fed into a margarine container.

## Before You Go

Follow these guidelines before leaving your violets for an extended period:

1. Carefully examine each violet for insects or disease before grouping them.
2. Always remove all spent flowers and flower buds that are large enough to open during your absence. Remove flower stalks as well.
3. Eliminate broken leaves or debris that can encourage mildew, invite diseases, or become a breeding place for fungus.
4. Never leave plants in excessive light or burning sun.
5. Ensure good ventilation; otherwise crown rot or mildew could spread rapidly if plant stress occurs.
6. Prevent overcrowding by leaving space between each plant.
7. Leave all plants clean and well moistened, but not soaking in water.
8. Always test the method you plan to use before leaving your plants. Experimenting beforehand determines the most effective growing method for your environment.

Remember to take good care of your plants before your departure with careful grooming and proper fertilizing; not only will they survive your vacation, but they'll put on an outstanding show of bloom upon your return.

Happy vacationing!

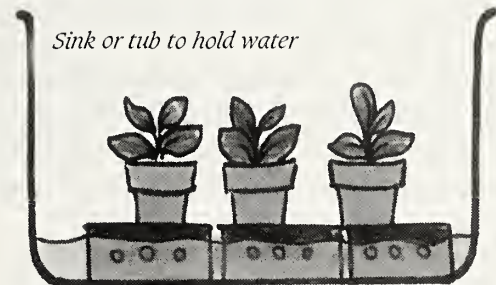
**Travel to unknown places instills a dream.**

**To find that perfect violet yet unseen**

**Weary and tired, we then return home.**

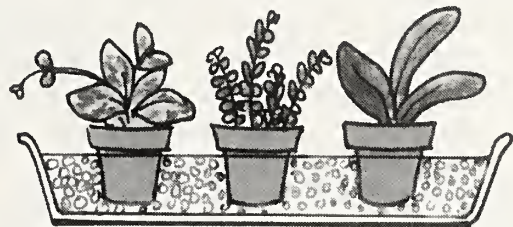
**Greenhouses await with beautiful violets of our own**

- Anne Tinari



*Sink or tub to hold water*

*Cover bricks with water and soak overnight. Then, reduce water level to one inch below the top surface of bricks. Water plants well and place on the bricks.*



*Fill a box or flat with damp vermiculite, sand, or peat moss, and wet down thoroughly with warm water. Drain off excess. Water each pot well, and place in the vermiculite almost to the rim.*

*From African-violet and Gesneriad News*

## A Tragic Story...and a Suggestion

I live in the northern U.S. and went to Florida for a two week vacation in December. Before leaving, I set the light timers to six hours a day, and watered everything well. I left the house keys with my neighbor, who checked the house several times while I was gone. This has been a brutal winter, December being exceptionally cold with record snowfalls.

After I wonderful, warm vacation, I returned home and went in the basement where my African violet collection was located. HORROR! I found the window over the African violet area broken! Someone tried unsuccessfully to break in and the temperature in the basement was 38°! I had no idea how long the window had been broken and my neighbor had not checked the basement.

Most of my plants were either translucent or mushy. Every plant was showing signs of damage. I boarded up the window and started the massive clean-up. I have since fixed the window, and still continue to throw out plants. All of them are lost. I had over 500 plants and over 100 leaves in various stages of development. I am devastated.

My homeowner's insurance won't cover the loss because I didn't report the attempted break-in to the police, and now, since I've cleaned up everything there is no evidence!

The only positive thing to come out of this is that I learned a valuable lesson. First of all, when you go away for any length of time, get an African violet friend to watch your collection! Second,

report any attempted break-ins to the police immediately. Third, make sure you spread your African violet "wealth" as much as you can.

This third point is what I want to emphasize.

I'm a member of a small African violet group and have good friends in this organization. I often give away leaves and small starter plants from suckers. This is a great way to keep your collection to a manageable size while spreading the wealth and maintaining friendships with other African violet growers. Also, I realize now, if I lose a plant, hopefully, I can get a leaf to restart from one of my friends.

When you are cleaning your plant shelves and need to make room for newer varieties, consider giving some of your plants away or trim off leaves and keep the plants small. Give the leaves to fellow African violet enthusiasts or to new members of your society. Remember your delight when someone shared their leaves and plants with you? You can start and keep friendships going for a lifetime just by sharing.

So, my fellow African violet friends, share the wealth! It will take a long time to for me to recover from this loss and have a real collection again. I will be in contact with Barbara Elkin for some of the "oldies" which I lost.

If you go to the AVSA Convention in Chicago, look for me in the sales room. I'll be the one with the glassy eyes, salivating.

Share a leaf.

# A Revisit to “The Future in the Violet World”

Dr. Jeff Smith • Indiana Academy  
Ball State University • Muncie, IN 47306

In reading through some older issues of the African Violet Magazine, I came across a 1963 article by Mr. Harry Meese entitled “The Future in the Violet World”. In this article, Mr. Meese made predictions on what he thought would be important traits or trends in the genetic future of African violets. Nearly forty years later, it’s interesting to examine the predictions and see which ones came true and which ones never materialized.

The first of Mr. Meese’s predictions was that the “Star gene” would be more fully developed. This trait refers to the star shape of African violet flowers where the five petals are equally arranged around the center. The Star gene was a relatively new trait in 1963 and the trait had not yet been developed in the full range of colors. Since 1963, hybridizers have developed a large number of cultivars with the Star gene, including all of the colors and different plant types such as miniatures and standards. The Star gene did become important, as predicted, and will likely continue to remain so.

Mr. Meese thought that the somewhat “muddy” flower colors of his day would be replaced by more “jewel” colors. By this, I presume he meant that the colors would be clear and bright without overlays or shadings of blue tones. If you have attended an African violet show recently, you will have noticed that this prediction did come true. Many of today’s cultivars have bright clear colors in various shades. One genetic factor that might have been involved is a mutation that removes the “bluing” co-pigment from the flowers. The presence of the bluing factor is a genetic dominant. The lack of the bluing factor is a recessive and requires that the plant have two copies of the gene for expression. In many of the reds and coral shades, this co-pigment causes a noticeable bluing effect or mudding of the flower color. The absence of this factor allows the colors to be bright and more jewel-like.

Mr. Meese’s reference to jewel colors allows me to speculate on when the mutation for the loss of the co-pigment may have originated. Since he does not give an example of a plant with “jewel colors”, the mutation may not have yet occurred, or perhaps it was not widely known except for one or two cultivars. A guess might be that the mutation may have originated later than 1963 or became established in many cultivars at some later date.

Two traits that did not develop as expected by Mr. Meese were patent leather foliage and cream-colored blossoms. Patent leather foliage was a term used to describe leaves that were dark green, had a shiny and glossy surface, and were very heavy or thick in texture. Sometimes the foliage was also wavy or ruffled. Overall, the effect was that the foliage looked like “patent leather”. Well-grown show plants with patent leather

foliage were spectacular. However, this foliage type was very susceptible to damage and was likely to split or crack. Because of these characteristics, patent leather foliage has been largely replaced by other foliage types over time. Very few modern cultivars have this type of foliage and the term “patent leather foliage” has been mostly dropped and forgotten.

Mr. Meese’s predictions on good cream-colored blooms surprised me. This is not currently a very popular flower color and I have rarely seen it in shows. I suspect that the development of the brighter “jewel colors” since 1963 have largely replaced the more modest colors like cream with the average grower. Both cream-colored blooms and patent leather foliage have suffered from the finicky whims of the hobbyist and have been largely replaced by other traits.

Another flower color prediction by Mr. Meese, but one that did come true, is the development of the “all chartreuse blossom”. Green flowered African violets have been popular with many growers and a good number of cultivars are available with various degrees of green in their petals. One might argue if the blooms are really “all chartreuse”, but at least the green flower color is still found in the plants of many collections today.

A development in African violets that I personally found interesting from a genetic point of view was Mr. Meese’s predictions for the future of polyploids. These plants have double or higher multiples of the typical chromosome numbers for the species. Mr. Meese expected polyploid plants to become very important in the future of African violets. In daylilies and other plants, tetraploid plants with four sets of chromosomes are indeed very popular. While tetraploids have been known for African violets for many years as “Amazons”, “Supremes” or “DuPont” plants, they have declined in popularity over time. What made tetraploid African violets popular in the past were their large growing size, thick heavy leaves, and huge flowers. The negative traits of the tetraploids were brittle foliage that split or broke easily, sparseness of bloom and slow growth. Since 1963, hybridizers have been able to produce plants that have the positive features of the tetraploids without many of their negatives. Over time, growers have selected the non-polyploid plants in favor of the polyploids and these plants are now rare in most collections.

One trait that was being explored by hybridizers in the early 1960’s was what was called “cluster” bloomers. These plants produced very large numbers of flowers per stalk. Values of 27 flowers per stem were sometimes reported. These plants, however, often produced smaller than average flowers. Mr. Meese argued that the smaller flower size was not a problem, especially when adjacent stems were blooming at the



same time and produced a mass of flowers that hid the foliage. This problem is still argued by growers today. Should we have fewer but larger flowers per stalk, or have many but smaller flowers? It appears that some arguments are not settled with more time and may depend on the values of the particular grower.

One of the last discussions by Mr. Meese was the development of double flowers that "stood out in a good third dimension, giving the effect of roundness of bloom". Coupled with recent developments in the doubling of the layers of petals, Mr. Meese predicted that we had "the ingredients and the making of carnation, dahlia, and marigold types of bloom for our African violets". The round fullness of double blooms is a combination of genetic traits that is currently possible and some cultivars do exist that show the flower types predicted by Mr. Meese. Here again, however, the choice of the hobbyist grower has not favored this type of flower. Fully double flowers are

slower to develop and usually have fewer flowers to stem. These flowers are often susceptible to mildew and other cultural problems, making it difficult to produce a good show plant. Because of these problems, the plants have been selected against and have not received the type of popularity Mr. Meese imaged for them.

To close this review of the past, I would like to quote Mr. Meese on one prediction that he absolutely knew would be true. "I'll venture to predict that all of the present day violets we love so dearly are now on their way out and in time will become a curiosity. They are the victims of that horrible state of affairs, obsolescence...". This statement appears to be as true in 2001 as it was in 1963.

#### Literature Cited:

Meese, H. 1963. "The Future in the Violet World". African Violet Magazine 16(3):22.



# HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS

by Marge Huntley • Australia

## Size Classification

Plant size is not how trailers are classified. They are classified by the size of the leaf and flower. A miniature trailing African violet can develop into a large plant growing happily in quite a big pot. The micro-miniature is a slower grower which usually only needs a small pot to show off its tiny leaves and flowers. So we have micro miniature, tiny leaves and flowers; miniature, small leaves and flowers; and semi-miniature, slightly bigger leaves and flowers. Standards have the largest leaves and flowers.

## To grow African violet trailers you need:

1. A porous African violet soil mix.
2. As good light as you can provide. More bloom will be produced on light stand plants, but those at a good window will thrive and flower.
3. Fertilizer - high nitrogen for the young plant and a higher phosphorous product for flowers. Because there are so many leaves and roots on a mature trailer, they use a lot of water and fertilizer. Do not neglect to leach the soil once a month by watering over the soil surface with plain water.
4. Pot size is dependent on size of plant. Trailers grow well and look nice in the low bowls we use for standard

plants. Water well pots are great for trailers and are allowed in the Show.

## Grooming

In their early development, trailers usually develop lots of large leaves with light stems. These must be removed so that the trailing shape can be seen.

Where these leaves join the stem, there is a tiny growth point which would be destroyed if the leaves were pulled off. It is better to cut off each leaf, leaving a tiny stub to protect the growth point. With luck enough, new growth will develop to make a full trailer. Most varieties branch out naturally, but some need to have the centers pinched out to force crown development.

## Requirements for Showing

Trailers must have a minimum of three crowns growing from the main stem. Crowns must be distributed evenly. There should be no yellow, spotted or damaged leaves, and no faded flowers or bare stems. The pot must be spotless and the plant clean. Flowers should be evenly distributed. Any pegs used to shape growth must be removed.

From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

# Growing a Best In Show - 'Magnolia'

by Treva McDaniel

All of my show plants were started from leaves. My baby plants were in 2 1/4" pots in March of last year. They were in the same soil mix as I use for the larger plants. These are top-watered until they set their first buds. When the buds appear, the plant is put into a 3" tub pot.

A piece of nylon twine (fisherman's nylon - the kind used to repair seines) is put through two holes on the bottom of the pot, extending inside the pot 1" to 1 1/4" on both ends. The plant is watered and set on capillary matting. This allows it to draw up as much moisture as it needs. When I used just wick watering, the capillary action often would stop. The wick had dried out between the water and the bottom of the pot. The other system works better for me.

Disbudding begins when the first buds appear, and continues for the entire year, until about eight weeks before show time. Once disbudding starts, the plants grow at a surprising speed. They need transplanting in three months time. Some of the more vigorous ones may need transplanting in two and a half months. With capillary matting, the plants show that they need to be re-potted by growing roots out the holes in the bottom of the pot.

I've never used pots over 4 1/2" and firmly believe that the plants grow and bloom better if they are kept slightly root bound. From a 3" tub, the plants are moved to a 3 1/2", then to a 4", and on to a 4 1/2" for the last repotting before show time. 'Magnolia' is a large growing plant and if I had grown it for another two weeks, it would have had to be put into a 5" pot. It is the first large growing violet I've ever tried to grow for show.

After the plants have been disbudded for several weeks, some varieties tend to form suckers. These are particularly prominent at the soil line, rather than on the main stem. They should be taken off with care.

All of my plants are grown in my basement under 48" fluorescent lights, using cool white bulbs. The bulbs are 15 1/2" from the table top and are on for twelve hours daily. They are changed only when they burn out. The basement temperature is 70° to 72° the year round.

I use 1/4 teaspoon fertilizer per gallon of water, and alternate fertilizers, changing the first of each month. Here are the ones used: Rapidgro (23-19-17), Plant Marvel (12-31-14), Stem's Miracle Gro (15-30-15), Peter's (20-20-20), and Peter's (12-36-14). No special food was used on the variegated plants, but Rapidgro wasn't used on them because of the high nitrogen content.

Six weeks before show time, the fertilizer used was 1/4 tsp, per gallon of water, a mixture of equal parts of 15-30-15 and variegated 5-50-17. This seems to make larger blooms for me.

The soil mix is Marie Burns' recipe. The recipe makes such a large batch that I cut it down to 1/4 the amount for easier mixing. Here is the original recipe:

## Marie Burn's Show Mix Recipe

2 gallons Baccto African Violet Soil  
3 gallons coarse perlite  
1 gallon damp peat moss  
2 gallons coarse vermiculite  
6 cups horticultural charcoal  
1 cup dehydrated cow manure  
6 Tablespoons Bone Meal  
2 Tablespoons Fermate  
10-12 Tablespoons Dolomite Lime

Baccto soil was impossible for me to find this last year, so I used whatever was available - Stimuplant, Hyponex, and Jungle Growth. They seemed to do fine as a substitute. It was a great thrill to win 'Best in Show' and 'Best AVSA Collection, in both the GSAVC State Show and in the Judges Society Show.

From *News and Views*, Georgia State African Violet Council newsletter.



## TRAINING SHOW PLANT LEAVES

When a leaf needs to be repositioned, I have good luck using plastic wrap under my leaves. I ball up a small amount and place it under the leaf that needs to be repositioned. This lets the light get to your lower leaves. It only takes a few days and you can see a difference in your plant. Any brand of plastic wrap will do. This does not cause your leaf to bend

around the object you use to reposition the leaf.

If I have a leaf stem that is crooked, I will split a small piece of drinking straw and slip this on the stem to help to straighten it.

From the AVConnection

# Do You Like Your Violets Big?

If you are a new grower and you wonder how others get their African violets to grow so large, consider the following points.

**Disbudding** You cannot reliably grow very large plants and also have a constant display of flowers. It is usually necessary to remove flower buds as they appear, to let the leaves grow before allowing such a plant to bloom.

**Selection** Some varieties grow larger than others. If large lush plants are your aim, select appropriately.

**Potting Mix** Only the best will do. A free draining open mix with plenty of air will promote strong growth.

**Pots** It is better not to attempt to grow a really large plant in a small pot. It may react poorly, and even if it does grow well, it will never be very stable. Pot the plant up progressively as it grows until it is in a 120 to 150 mm pot. Some growers even use large flat florist's bowls. Just remember that for showing, the pot should be around one third the diameter of the plant. Don't wait for the plant to grow large before potting up, either. When it begins to outgrow the current pot, that is the time to move it on. Repotting stimulates growth.

**Light** This needs to be good to promote good growth. However, if you are rigorously disbudding, you may find that a little less light will give bigger leaves and slightly flatter centers. Increase light again when you want the plant to flower. Be

careful, however, as too little light will give you a sparse, open looking plant with few flowers and which is obviously reaching for the light. Experiment for good results, remembering that some plants like and need more light than others.

**Watering** For good results never ignore the watering. When the plant becomes dry, there is a slowing in growth, and perhaps even a row of smaller leaves. Wick watering helps to ensure that plants obtain constant moisture.

**Fertilizing** This should be constant, probably with a high nitrogen fertilizer in the very early stages of the plant's growth. Many growers favor Thrive Indoor, but Fish Emulsion, Nitrosol, and Aquasol have been used successfully. Remember that these fertilizers need to be used at about one third strength only. When the plant is more mature, use a standard African violet fertilizer with a balance of nutrients, including those which will help produce abundant bloom.

**Pests & Diseases** An African violet stands little chance of growing large if it is attacked by pests. Be on the lookout for signs of mites, soil mealy bugs, thrips, powdery mildew and any other pest.

From *The African Violet*, Official Journal  
of the AVA of Australia

## POTTING UP

by Carolyn Conlin-Lane  
Canada

I recently received a follow-up note from a friend on potting up plants. One of the things that she mentioned was that she felt that she was a little too rough with the plants during repotting, and sometimes loses a lot of leaves.

I thought I might share some of the things I do to avoid this (all learned from other growers in my local African violet club). I use a layer fiberglass screening in the bottom of all of my pots (the type used in screen doors). This not only keeps in the potting mix, but gives you something to push on when removing the plant from the pot.

Use a bamboo stick to poke up through a bottom hole and the plant comes neatly out of the pot. Since I bottom water, the pot is usually completely full of roots by the time I get around to repotting (if it isn't, I don't pot up, although I might freshen the soil and remove a few leaves).

Prior to taking the plant out of the pot, I have prepared its new pot. I put the name and date on the pot (using a white china marker aka grease pencil), put in the new fiberglass

screening and fill up a little bit with soil. Then I center an empty pot, slightly smaller than the pot that the plant is currently in, and fill the entire pot with soil (outer and inner pot). Then I remove the inner pot. I now have a perfectly formed depression to fit the plant into.

I then take the plant out of its pot, remove the old screening (it can be washed with your dirty pots and reused), remove any yellow/damaged outer leaves and pop the plant into the hole. Sometimes you might need to remove a little bit of the root ball (I do this with an Exacto knife) in order to ensure that the plant is correctly levelled in the pot.

All you have to do then is firm up the soil a little bit (not too much), and you are done. I use fairly moist soil, so I don't need to water immediately (sometimes I find if I water right away the plant gets a shock and the leaves get spotty).

From *Chatter*, Journal of the AVS of Canada

# A Case of the Droops

by Margaret Taylor • Australia

When tending African violets it is not uncommon to find a plant with flaccid leaves drooping over the sides of its pot. Quick diagnosis and appropriate treatment is needed as several conditions can cause this to happen.

## CHECK LIST

1. Has the soil ball dried out? Sometimes a wick may be caught up under the pot, it may be clogged with algae or fertilizer salts or perhaps not working for other reasons. Is the root system pot-bound? If simple lack of water is the problem, it is better to re-hydrate the plant slowly. This is achieved by standing the pot in a saucer of room temperature water and allowing it to be taken up, rather than to flood the root fall from the top. A collar may help to support the droopy leaves. You may wish to lightly mist the foliage using rather hot water.

2. Has the root system been kept too wet? This may happen when the potting mix is too heavy or if a plant is over-potted, overwicked even. Feeder roots will soon perish if allowed to sit in a swamp. Saucer watering is fine provided the plant is not standing in water constantly. Remember, roots need their share of oxygen as well as the leaves.

3. Has the plant been stressed by radical reduction in size? Best to avoid extremes of temperature when doing root trimming or neck scraping and again, do not overdo the supply of water. Did you remember to pot down a size to match a smaller root system? If it has been necessary to remove all roots, leaving only a crown and stump, it is essential to place the leaf system under the cover of a plastic bag, upturned clear container or similar. This helps to avoid shock. In about three weeks usually, the new roots will have started to form

and the plant can be ventilated gradually until new foliar growth is noticed. Again remember "not too wet" when undertaking this treatment. A fine mist of moisture in the container is adequate.

4. Root rot and/or crown rot is usually terminal but occasionally, if quick action is carried out and the rotting parts removed, it may be possible to save a valued plant. Perhaps it is safest to save only a small crown and reset as above.

5. Oh no! Not the mealies! Probably the worst scenario is to unexpectedly find a drooping plant infested with soil mealy bugs. Perhaps the plant has been telling you that it wasn't feeling very well, has been unusually thirsty and not thriving as expected. Keep forever vigilant by looking for these pests around the base of crowns and leaf axils, root systems and reservoirs.

There are different viewpoints in how to treat SMB. Some chemicals may be effective, but it is probably safer to repeat the process outlined above, remembering to wash the crown in warm soapy water and rinse very well before resetting it. Not even one soil mealy bug or an egg must remain. Make it a rule to isolate all new plant material, or previously infected plants until you are confident they are clean and disease free.

Whatever the reason for a droopy plant, quick action is a must. Even if you are unable to tend your collection every day, try to carry out a quick inspection of your plant shelves. You will soon spot any poor unfortunate suffering from "the droops".

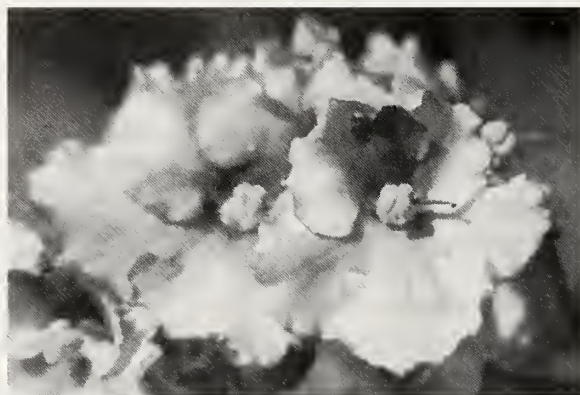
From *The African Violet*,  
Official Journal of the AVA of Australia

## Easy Close-ups

by Viv Kay

I don't have a macro lense, but like to take close-ups of my African-violets. My mom actually gave me a tip about using a magnifying glass. I wasn't sure if it would work but as you can see by the photo at the right, it certainly did!

I bought a magnifying glass that was about the diameter of the camera lens and then used 'Blu Tac' to stick the glass to the lens. Blu Tack is a brand name for a plasticine-like, reusable, multi purpose adhesive that is used to stick posters to walls. You could also use strong tape if you could not find a similar product.

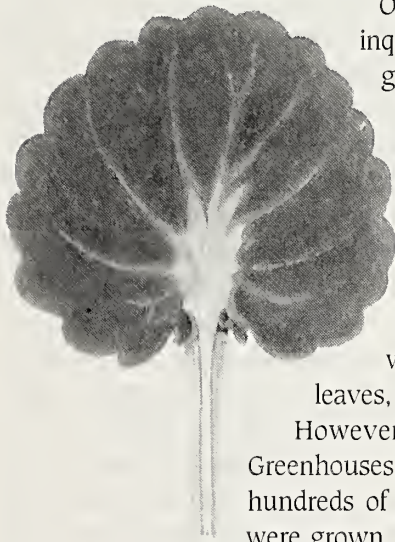


*The photo is of an unnamed standard African-violet that is starting to develop stripes. Pretty good for a 20 year old camera and a \$4 magnifying glass!*

From *African-violet and Gesneriad News*

# WHERE, OH, WHERE, HAVE THE GIRL LEAF CULTIVARS GONE?

by Anne Tinari



On many occasions, I receive inquiries on where to obtain girl type leaves. Reviewing our interesting past history, one must remember the ten original African violets made available to the public were introduced by Armacost and Royston in 1927, all of which had plain tailored leaves, referred to as "boy leaves".

However, in 1941, the Utery Greenhouses in Springfield, OH, where hundreds of 'Blue Boy' African violets were grown, a mutation of this variety produced a distinct white spot at the leaf base. This greenhouse operation grew it and named this mutant 'Blue Girl' and later registered it with our national society in 1952. Strangely enough, during the early days when hybridizing was at its peak, this beautiful type foliage appeared on many grower's list. Every collector felt it mandatory to include one in their collection.

I have been asked why this new leaf type was so named. My only guess is that perhaps, because of the beautiful serrated foliage with even scalloped edges and heart shape, this crisp, shiny leaf was most attractive, reminiscent of a lady's ruffled petticoat.

Have we lost the technique in hybridizing to include this unusual type foliage? If we travel back to the years 1948-1970, one can recall some of the very popular girl type introductions. Utery Greenhouses also introduced 'Sailor Delight' and 'Sailor Girl'. The Baxter Greenhouses in Ohio came forth with 'Pink Girl'. We introduced our first girl leaf cultivar in 1949, and named it 'Helen Van Pelt Wilson' followed by an introduction of the variety 'Clementine'. Other growers were also producing some very popular varieties such as 'White Madonna', 'Apple Blossom Pink' and 'Pink Dresden'.

Mutation of the African violet has given us valuable characteristics to add interest and has created possibilities for bigger and better improvements in both flower and foliage.

I find it rewarding to recall the fascinating changes and improvements of which we have participated that have occurred in our favorite plant in the past fifty years.



## Violets & Bridges

by Anne Herbatuk • Canada

As President of the AVS of Greater Montreal, I'm pleased to inform all violet growers in North America that on May 11 and 12, 2001, there will be a violet convention at the Radisson Hotel in Longueuil, Quebec. Longueuil City is over the bridge from Montreal on the south shore.

Longueuil is a French-speaking club. It's a good thing that both my husband and I speak French! This club has produced many outstanding members; Mr. Denis Croteau, hybridizer, well-known for fantasy violets, and Mr. Michel Tremblay, hybridizer of the lovely plant, 'Picasso'.

AVS of Greater Montreal has a well-known hybridizer - Mrs. Greta Durand. Last month she announced her new creation, 'Ice Storm'. This is such an appropriate name for Quebec. Our winters are harsh, and many remember the ice

storm of 1998 that left Quebec paralyzed for many months. Many members of both clubs lost their violet collections due to no heat or light.

Once it was over, our clubs exchanged plants and leaves. The fortunate members who were able to salvage some plants helped the others. Before long, the AVS of Greater Montreal acquired nine new members, who were also members of the Longueuil Club.

The bridge was crossed. Now it is up to all of us no matter where we live, or who we are, to realize that the violet is teaching us to open our hearts and our minds. We can cross bridges like the African violet and bloom for wisdom and understanding.

See you at the Longueuil Convention!

# Getting the Most From a Leaf Cutting

by Kevin Denger • Oshkosh, WI

I recently had the opportunity to visit with a grower from Illinois. He showed me a beautiful new African violet cultivar which had variegated leaves and pinkish/coral blossoms.

The cultivar is scheduled to be released in the future, and he offered me two large leaves.

When I returned home, I was anxious to put the leaves down. Since they were large, I wanted to get the most out of them, so I decided to try something new.

I cut about one third of the leaf tip off and tried planting it to see if it would send up plantlets. I dusted these tip cuttings with rooting hormone and planted each in their own pot. I placed the cuttings down about 1/4 inch into the soil.


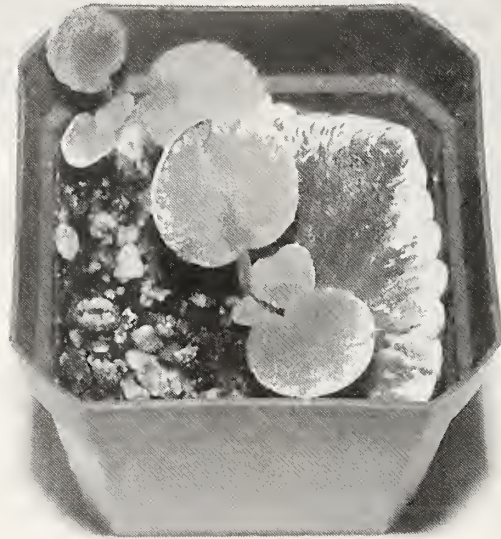
I put both cuttings in a clear plastic bag and placed it under my grow lights.

After about three weeks, the leaf tip cuttings still looked fresh and I thought they may be taking root. Every now and then I checked to see if any plantlets were coming up.

After about ten weeks I saw the first sign of babies! The plantlets came up along the edge of the cuttings (see photo).

One plantlet did come up on the backside of the cutting. All these plantlets were easy to remove and pot up.

By trying this method, not only did I get babies from the two leaves, but from the leaf tip cuttings, as well!



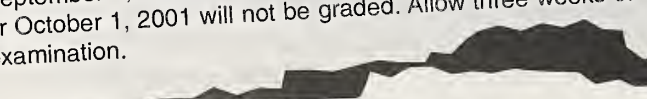
## IMPORTANT NOTICE: SENIOR JUDGES NEW ADDRESS

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and September 1, 2001. Send request to Meredith Hall, 922 East 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009. Include check for \$5.00, (**payable to AVSA**) and proof of three blue ribbons as per AVSA Handbook, page 83 or S & J Column in Jan/Feb 2001 AVM, page 38. Allow three weeks for delivery. The completed examination must be returned before October 1, 2001 for grading. Examination may be received on disk if requested. (This is available on Microsoft Works only.)

Those Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, send check for \$5.00 (**payable to AVSA**) to Mrs. Hall. Also send the following items of documentation of eligibility per AVSA Handbook.

1. List of all judging schools attended, grades, etc.
2. Signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged, and
3. Verification of three blue ribbons earned per AVSA Handbook and S & J Column (Jan/Feb 2001)

Allow three weeks for delivery. Schedules and cards will be returned if a SASE is included with proper amount of postage. Applications postmarked after September 1, 2001 will be returned and application may be made next year. Completed exams postmarked after October 1, 2001 will not be graded. Allow three weeks or more (after Oct. 1, 2001) for grading and return of examination.



# What If?

by Amy Cash-Allison • Montgomery, Illinois

While grooming my plants a couple of days ago, I got to thinking. Four short years ago, I owned only a handful of African violets and leaves. Some had been no-name hand-me-downs or less than perfect specimens needing some TLC. They had perched quietly on a table just below a southern window, slurping up the occasional drink (when I remembered), and I honestly barely noticed them. They sometimes would not even grab my glance all week long. With the assumption that they would die, I tried not to get my hopes up. I merely kept up the weekly regimen, hardly even considering their potential.

Some of those original plants sit on my light stand today - some are blooming, some are being groomed to show, and at least one of them is many times over a grandparent. So now with nearly one hundred different varieties and two light stands, I contemplate this whole crazy situation. What in the world happened? I mean, one year I'm practically ignoring them, and four short years later I'm literally praying they will bloom in time for the show. I know this is not an unusual story - we have all heard it a hundred times. One plant becomes five, becomes twenty, becomes seventy-five, etc. Everyone in the violet world talks of this happening, but I wonder what might happen if I continue at this rate. It's not like I'm going for the "Miss Horticulture of America" award, so why have I allowed these little greenies to invade my life?

This is the way I figure it. You have all seen what four years has done to me. In another four or more, we have an entirely different story. My husband and son will be gone, because we simply will not have space for them anymore. Just like native wildlife, my family will be displaced by small green "aliens" taking over and multiplying faster than we can stop them. My dependable car will have long before been replaced with a great, gas-guzzling beast with enough room for several boxes of plants. It will be well equipped with dual temperature controls and rear speakers playing soft music for my colorful "children". Light stands will fill my home, allowing neighbors a block away to save on their electric bills, and

I will no longer have the chore of decorating the outside of my house with obnoxious Christmas lights. Of course, this magnificent lighting would cause problems with NASA, who would regularly send me threatening letters "urging" me to dim the lights so that the astro - and cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station can view their sensitive mapping and guidance controls without "severe light disturbance" from Earth.

But, on the "brighter" side, I bet I could net a million dollars easy from the sale of my babies. Well, on second thought, I couldn't sell them after all. Each and every new baby would be lovingly cared for and carefully groomed for greatness on Earth. They would bring people together in such a way to promote peace, love, and joy. They could be named as special ambassadors to foreign countries, finally instilling true peace in the world. Violets would be in every home, spreading their great greenness everywhere. It would eventually come to pass that geneticists all over the world would wish to alter the African violet by installing computer processors, making the AV the most intelligent flora ever in our history. Those plants could eventually take over the world, becoming activists or political figureheads. People would rush to Hallmark stores to purchase African Violet Day cards for the new international holiday.

Ok, well maybe it sounds a bit far - fetched, but such seems the great power of the African violet. If we allow them to take over our lives, we might experience things such as peace on Earth, but I doubt it. So after careful consideration, I vow to myself and my family that I will try to keep this obsession in check. No matter the difficulty, I'll try desperately to keep the varieties under (or at least near) one hundred. I will not keep every single baby plantlet, and I will not force myself into bankruptcy because of my need for more plant stands. I will keep this hobby in perspective, and do my best to keep my mind in reality.

A New Year's resolution, you ask? No, just a temporary bout of sanity.



"Cat Nap"

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# Coming Events



**May 4 & 5 - ILLINOIS**  
Late Bloomers AVC Show/Sale  
Freeport Lincoln Mall  
1265 West Galena Avenue  
Freeport, IL  
Info: Mable Lewis (608) 966 - 3853

**May 4 - NEW JERSEY**  
Garden State AVC Show/Sale  
Princeton Market Fair  
3535 US Hwy. No. 1  
Princeton, NJ  
Mall Hours  
Info: Bob Hughes (732) 780 - 3398

**May 4 - CANADA**  
Stampede City AVS Show  
Northland Village Mall  
5111 Northland Dr. NW  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
Mall Hours  
Info: Winston Goretzky (403) 241 - 8300

**May 4 - 6 - NEW YORK**  
AVS of Syracuse 48th Annual Show/Sale  
Shoppingtown Mall  
3649 Erie Blvd. East  
Syracuse, NY  
May 4 - noon - 9:30pm  
May 5 - 2pm - 9:30pm  
May 6 - 11am - 6pm

**May 4 - PENNSYLVANIA**  
AVS of Springfield Show/Sale  
Springfield Mall  
Baltimore Pike  
Springfield, PA  
Mall Hours  
Info: Judi Creswell (610) 449 - 9041

**May 5 - CANADA**  
Vancouver Violet & Gesneriad Society  
Show/Sale  
VanDusen Gardens, Floral Hall  
Oak & 37th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC, Canada  
Hours: 1pm - 4pm  
Info: mlanders@paralynx.com

**May 5 & 6 - CALIFORNIA**  
Carlsbad AVS 6th Annual Judged Show/Sale  
Plaza Camino Real Mall  
Carlsbad, CA  
May 5 - noon - 5pm  
May 6 - 11am - 3pm  
Info: Patty Ragan (310) 372 - 1771  
Email: plrbkddy579@cs.co

**May 5 & 6 - CONNECTICUT**  
Silvermine AVS Show/Sale  
Nature Center for Environmental Activities  
10 Woodside Lane  
Westport, CT  
May 5 - 1:30pm - 5pm  
May 6 - noon - 4pm  
Info: Sylvia Siegel (203) 847 - 5570  
Email: SYLNPHIL@aol.com

**May 5 & 6 - MISSOURI**  
Sho-Me AVC Show/Sale  
Loose Park Garden Center  
5200 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Kansas, MO  
May 5 - 10am - 5pm  
May 6 - 10am - 2pm  
Info: Julie Fox (816) 532 - 4258  
Email: jewel101@earthlink.net

**May 5 & 6 - WISCONSIN**  
Oshkosh AVS 21st Annual Show/Sale  
Park Plaza Mall & Office Center  
Downtown Oshkosh-On-the-Water  
May 5 - 10am - 5pm  
May 6 - noon - 4:30pm  
Info: Kevin Degner (920) 426 - 3764  
Cathy Heider (920) 685 - 5262

**May 5 & 6 - CALIFORNIA**  
San Joaquin AVS Display/Sale  
Sherwood Mall  
5308 Pacific Ave.  
Stockton, CA  
Info: Pat Soares (209) 823 - 4627

**May 5 & 6 - CALIFORNIA**  
AVS of South Bay Show/Sale  
Westgate Mall  
1600 Saratoga Ave  
San Jose, CA  
May 5 - 2pm - 9pm  
May 6 - 10am - 5pm  
Info: Irene Thomas (650) 369 - 3452

**May 5 & 6 - OHIO**  
AVS of Dayton 6th Annual Show/Sale  
Cox Arboretum  
West Carrollton, OH  
May 5 - 10am - closing  
May 6 - Noon - 4pm  
Info: JoAnne Brown (513) 777 - 7041  
Pat Hancock (513) 777 - 2524  
Dorothy Rittenhouse (937) 866 - 8006

**May 5 - CALIFORNIA**  
Ventura County AVS Show/Sale  
Pacific View Mall  
Mill Rd. & Main St.  
Ventura, CA  
Hours: 10am - 6pm  
Info: Lisa Martinez  
Email: lisabear333@hotmail.com

**May 5 & 6 - LOUISIANA**  
Verbeau AVC Plant Sale  
Landmark Hotel  
Hwy. 171 South  
Leesville, LA  
May 5 - 11am - 6pm  
May 6 - 11am - 4pm  
Info: Sharon Hardwick (337) 239 - 7590  
Jo-Beth Jeane (337) 537 - 1944

**May 10 - CANADA**  
Club Violettes Longueuil  
999 de Sérigny  
Longueuil, Quebec  
Canada  
Hours: Noon - 8pm  
Info: Michel Paradis (450) 928 - 8097

**May 10 - 12 - OHIO**  
Violets & Friends AVC Show/Sale  
Miami Valley Centre Mall  
I-75 & Rt. 36  
Piqua, OH  
May 10: 1pm - 9pm  
May 11 & 12: 10am - 9pm  
Info: Dixie Gunsaulies (937) 653 - 5041  
Shirley Jones (937) 773 - 3761

**May 10 - CALIFORNIA**  
Town & Country AVS Mother's Day Sale  
Redlands Mall  
100 Redlands Mall  
Redlands, CA  
Mall Hours  
Info: Marcha Grant (510) 915 - 5549

**May 11 & 12 - FLORIDA**  
Suncoast AVC Plant Sale  
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church  
3747 34th St. S  
St. Petersburg, FL  
May 11: 9am - 3pm  
May 12: 9am - 2pm  
Info: Sue McFarlane (727) - 866 - 8830

**May 11 & 12 - OHIO**  
Parmatown AVC Show/Sale  
Parmatown Mall  
7899 W. Ridgewood Dr.  
Parma, Ohio  
May 11 - 9am - 9pm  
May 12 - 9am - 5pm  
Info: Martha Bell (330) 483 - 3564  
(440) 238 - 1400

**May 11 & 12 - MARYLAND**  
Baltimore AVC Show/Sale  
Cantonsville United Methodist Church  
6 Melvin Avenue  
Cantonsville, MD  
May 11 - 9am - 6pm  
May 12 - 9am - 4pm  
Info: Janet Haag (410) 377 - 8753  
Email: snowjwhite@yahoo.com

**May 11 & 12 - ILLINOIS**  
Wandering AV Enthusiasts Show/Sale  
University Mall  
Carbondale, IL  
May 11 - noon - 9pm  
May 12 - 9am - 6pm  
Info: Lorraine Puttman (618) 684 - 3694

**May 12 - CALIFORNIA**  
Fancy Bloomers AVS Mother's Day Sale  
Coddington Mall  
Guernville Rd. @ Hwy 101  
Santa Rosa, CA  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Byron Borck (707) 527 - 8362

**May 12 - NEW JERSEY**  
AVC of Burlington County Show/Sale  
Burlington Center Mall  
Route 541, Burlington, NJ  
Hours: 10am - 9pm  
Info: Laurel Brown (856) 877 - 8696  
Sandra Skalski  
email: sskalski@snip.net

**May 12 - NEBRASKA**  
Omaha AVS Spring Sale  
Southroads Mall  
1001 Fort Crook Rd  
Bellevue, NE  
Hours: 10am - 5pm  
Info: Perry Robinson (402) 280 - 2882

**May 12 - TEXAS**  
Corpus Christi AVS Plant Sale  
Padre Staples Mall - Center Court  
5488 S. Padre Island Dr.  
Corpus Christi, TX  
Hours: 10am - 5pm  
Info: Majorie Bullard (361) 992 - 3009  
Email: mrbinc@flash.net

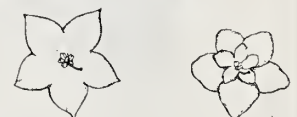
**May 13 & 14 - CALIFORNIA**  
Foothill AVS Show/Sale  
Westfield Shoppingtown  
West Covina, CA  
Info: Chris Hedberg (626) 797 - 7525

**May 19 - KENTUCKY**  
Kentuckiana AVS Plant Sale  
Calvary Lutheran Church  
1838 Bardstown Rd  
Louisville, KY  
Hours: 9am - 2pm  
Info: Charlotte Stewart  
Email: kyanaviolets@hotmail.com

**June 8 & 9 - MASSACHUSETTS**  
Bay State AVS Show/Sale  
Waltham Field Station  
240 Beaver Street  
June 8 - 2pm - 8pm  
June 9 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Bob Clark (978) 738 - 6983  
Email: thecopse@yahoo.com

**June 10 - CANADA**  
Totonto AVS Show/Sale  
Civic Garden Centre  
777 Lawrence Ave E  
North York, Ontario  
Canada  
Hours: 11am - 5pm  
Info: Jean Hamilton  
(416) 491 - 9719 (after 6pm)

**July 3 - 7 - MISSOURI**  
AGGS 45th Annual  
Convention & Flower Show  
Hyatt Regency Crown Center  
2345 McGee St  
Kansas, Mo  
Info: AGGS Website <www.aggs.org>  
Grace McCurmin (913) 722 - 4085







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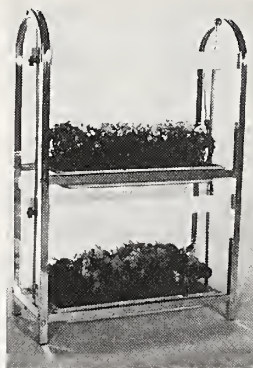
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2-3/8"	Wt. only	Rd. Tub	1.10	2.25	4.25	8.00	38.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.00	55.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.25	13.50	59.40
4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
6-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	4.00	9.50	18.00	34.00	160.00

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4 1/2" White only	1.50	7.00	13.00
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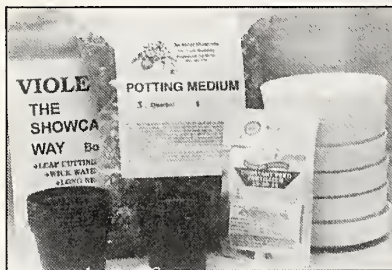
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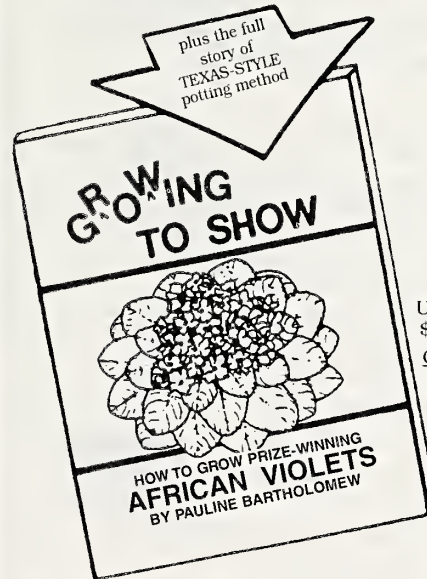
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# African Violet

*The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

July • August 2001

Volume 54

Number 4



# AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

FOR ACCURATE SERVICE, SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

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Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$20, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$22.50; Commercial USA \$32; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

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**AFFILIATES:** For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, P. O. Box 646, Clintwood, VA 24228. E-mail promoters22@hotmail.com

**SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Patricia Sutton, 1707 S. 77 E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74112. E-mail sutpa01@worldnet.att.net

**AVSA OFFICE:** Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@earthlink.net

**BEST VARIETIES:** HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

**BOOSTER FUND:** Send contributions to Bill Lyons, 38 Indian Creek Drive, Levittown, PA 19057.

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**ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS:** Send to Editor.

**Please Note: Deadlines** - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

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**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. judycart@flash.net

**ADVERTISING DEADLINES:** Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

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**PLANT REGISTRATION:** Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

**RESEARCH:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

**SHOW ENTRY TAGS:** 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

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# African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

July • August

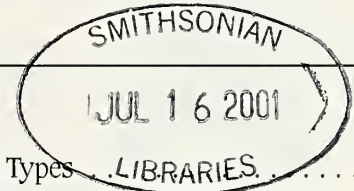
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### COVER

**Optimara New Mexico**  
Best In Show  
Best Standard  
AVSA National Show 2001  
Exhibited by:  
**Tony Hulleman**  
Hybridized by: **Holktamp**



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

# President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

Our 55th National AVSA Convention in Chicago is now history. For those of us who were fortunate to participate, we share many pleasant memories and days of fun. It is always so enjoyable to renew old friendships and to meet new violet friends.

Jim Owens did his usual great job of making sure our tours were enjoyable. He and local tour assistant, Heloise Nathan, had a varied selection of tours, so there was something of interest for everyone.

This was the best commercial sales room in years, with eighteen commercials represented, ensuring we all found those special plants or supplies we wanted.

A beautiful show was the capstone to the convention. The 500 registered members saw 978 entries, each a beautiful African violet plant or design.

We were treated to some great presentations. They included talks about violet pests, hybridizing, growing the small ones, judging gesneriads, design skills, and soils. What an opportunity to learn more about violets and gesneriads and what it takes to grow and show them to perfection! Don Geiss and his team kept busy with a "Growing Skills Fair" that was very popular with the public and our members.

So many people contribute to a successful show that I was hesitating to name names for fear of omitting someone. For instance, Susan Bradford of Round Lake Beach, Illinois packaged hundreds of Jimmy Dates' hybrids as a handout at registration. She also sent me home with a care package of Dates' hybrids to share with local growers. Thanks Susan.

There are so many people that did similar things that made the convention special. For you special people, many thanks. Without you and your often-unsung efforts, this convention would not have been the roaring success that it was.

Of course, a great convention requires great leadership. Convention Chair Carol Allegretti and Vice Chair Steve Covolo provided the overall leadership for the convention. Show Chair Anna Jean Landgren and Show Vice Chair Joe Bruns did likewise for the show.

These folks were everywhere! They and their most able team provided a very enjoyable experience. Our host hotel, the Sheraton Arlington Park Hotel in Arlington Park, Illinois, provided such great rooms and service that we were barely inconvenienced by the finishing touches on their renovation. Linda Owens, our AVSA Convention Committee Chair, had very few minor issues to resolve. We all salute the Chicago Convention team for providing everyone a very enjoyable week.

We wouldn't have a show without the many exhibitors, both amateur and commercial, which grew such magnificent plants and brought them to Chicago from around the country. Thank you all.

Special "attaboys" go to Tony Hulleman from Burlington Ontario, Canada for his Best African Violet in Show and to Fran Russom from St. Louis, Missouri for her Best Design in Show. Fran also won sweepstakes in Design with ten Blue Ribbons. Kathy Lahti from Annandale, Minnesota received Horticultural Sweepstakes with sixty-one Blue Ribbons. Kenneth Rein of St. Paul, Minnesota was second with fifty-two Blue Ribbons. Check out our AVSA web site at: <http://www.avsa.org/home.html> for full details on the show's major winners.

The Chicago Convention will always remain special and etched in my memory since I was elected and installed there as your new President. I thank you all for your confidence in me. We have a very strong team of officers, directors, and committee chairmen that will continue to improve and grow AVSA. I will work hard for you, our AVSA membership.

Bill Foster, now our immediate Past President and Chairman of the Shows and Judges Committee, is thanked for his strong leadership these past two years. His continued service to AVSA is very much appreciated.

We welcome our new Third Vice President Joyce Stork and our new Treasurer Gary Gordon. We also have five new Directors to welcome to our ranks. They are: Shirley Berger of Florida, Mary Boland of Virginia, Jacquie Eisenhut of California, Ruth Loomis of Arizona, and Nancy Moerer of Missouri. Special thanks are given to Past Presidents Mary Boland and Hortense Pittman for installing the Officers and Directors with inspiring installation ceremonies.

We thank our past Treasurer, Meredith Hall, and our retiring Directors and Committee Chairmen and others who have given so freely of their time and talents. Your work for AVSA is appreciated.

Next year's convention is in the Washington, DC area. Many have requested this site for a long time. The convention team promises us an even bigger and better show in DC. After Chicago, they definitely have their work cut out for them. I'm already counting down the days until next May. It will be exciting. More on the convention later as it gets closer. Keep checking the AVSA web site. It already has information posted on the 2002 Convention.

Sincerely,

John E. (Jack) Wilson  
AVSA President



# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

Our cover this issue is 'Optimara New Mexico', Best in Show and Best Standard at the AVSA 2001 National Show in Chicago. This gorgeous plant was exhibited by **Tony Hulleman**, AVSA member from Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

Many of our Canadian members attended the Chicago convention, entering a tremendous number of beautiful plants, which were a welcomed addition to the show.

Congratulations to **John and Doris Brownlie**, also of Canada, for producing the Best New Cultivar, 'Aca's Summer Parfait', a lovely plant that will grace the cover of the September/October issue of this magazine.

To see which of your fellow growers won the other top awards, have a look at the "2001 AVSA Show Winners" on page 20.

**Daphne Snell** of New Zealand, and hybridizer of the wonderful plants in the Kiwi series joined us in Chicago. It is always such a treat to visit with Miss Daphne.

Our friends from Japan were also there, former AVSA Board Member, **Kazuo Horikoshi**, and **Ueki Masahiro, Kenichi and Saki Okishita** and my friend, **Susuma Shizukawa**.

**Cynthia Correa** of Panama, **Gwen Goodship** from England, and **Dolly Yeh** from Taiwan, also joined us in Chicago.

At his first AVSA convention in Houston, **Don Geiss** mentioned to me that many first time attendees, as well as the public who come to see our convention shows, would be interested in demonstrations of the basics. Someone else thought this was a good idea, and this project was implemented in Chicago with the "Growing Skills Fair", live demonstrations of the basic skills all violet growers should master.

Appropriately, Don was coordinator of the event with a team of knowledgeable growers. The demonstrations coincided with the show, which was open to the public, and we heard many positive comments from those who attended. The public was enthusiastic about the show, and Jenny and I, with our volunteers at Registration and the AVSA Sales Table, directed crowds to the showroom and then on to the commercial sales room.

AVSA Official Photographer, **Winston J. Goretsky**, outdid himself with the photos from the 2001 show. You'll be treated to these photographs throughout the year. Before Winston agreed to be our photographer, the photographing of plants for the AVM was a long, tedious task. I hired a photographer in each convention city, and the job often ran long into the night. Having a true African violet grower, who is also a photographer, working for us is a blessing. Winston is also a member of the AVSA Board of Directors and is the national President of the African Violet Society of Canada.

A special treat for Jenny and I on our trip to Chicago, was having our **AVSA Office Secretary, Amy Sanders**, and **Valerie Ryden, General Manager of Becker Printing**, join us for the weekend. Many of you had met Valerie on the tour to see the AVM printed during the Houston convention. Amy enjoyed meeting the members, several of whom she had spoken with when they called the AVSA office.

Club Presidents: Please ask your club members to write an article on their growing experiences, or another African violet related topic. I would also appreciate it if your members would suggest topics they would like to see appear in the AVM.

## Membership Application

Application for Membership Recommended by \_\_\_\_\_ Mem. # \_\_\_\_\_

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.  
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Membership runs one year from date paid and includes 6 issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET Magazine.

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- Affiliated Chapter USA (\$22.00)
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# Office Update



Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

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(800) 770-2872

The Chicago Convention was just wonderful. Those of you who could not make it really missed a great show! Thanks to all the hard work of many of the local people, the convention was enjoyed by all. Not only did the registered members of AVSA enjoy the show, but we had hundreds of walk-ins from the area come in to learn more about our beloved violets. They also purchased plants and supplies from our commercial members.

Thanks to all of you who helped me at registration. **Bill Krewer** seemed to be everywhere! If you needed anything at all he found it for you! **Irene Merrell** spent many hours at the registration desk, answering questions and helping everyone.

**Steve Covolo** and **Carol Allegretti** worked long and tirelessly to make sure the show was perfect, and they succeeded. **Karen Allegretti** and her committee furnished the hospitality room with more food than we could eat and opened extra hours to give our members a place to eat breakfast.

**Karen, Steve, and Carol** went far beyond the call of duty

to make sure every AVSA member felt welcome and at home.

A special "thank you" goes out to **Terry and Gary Duchlen**. They helped at the information table and when needed, manned the registration table. You guys are great! **Celia Dazet**, from Louisiana, pitched in when needed even though she was not scheduled to work.

And I cannot forget **Joe and Janice Bruns**. These two people work so hard for AVSA. You are both very special, and I appreciate all you do.

If you missed Chicago, you will not want to miss DC! Start making plans for the Greater Washington, DC area convention next year. Each year they just keep getting better!

On returning to Beaumont from Chicago we had a little visitor, Tropical Storm Allison. Although there was major flooding in the area, the AVSA office is fine. If you tried to call us on Thursday, June 7th and there was no answer, it was because we were not able to make it into the office until late afternoon due to the high water. It has all drained down now and things are back to normal.

## Thank You

I want to extend my gratitude to everyone attending the AVSA convention in Chicago. It was a treat for me to be able to attend and meet so many of the AVSA members. Everyone made me feel so welcome. I enjoyed seeing the people who have attended the tours of Becker Printing Company and it was great to put faces with all the names I have heard over the last eight years in my association with the production of the African Violet Magazine.

Having never attended an AVSA convention, I was surprised by the absolute beauty of the huge show, and envy the growing skills of the entrants. I have learned so much about African violets from working on the magazine with Ruth Rumsey. I have built quite a collection of my own! They truly become your little pets. Though I am just an amateur, it is a fun and exciting hobby.

On the Sunday that we left Chicago and flew back to Texas, I learned that my father had passed away that

morning. Word got around quickly, and your cards and letters of condolence, as well as the plants, were so comforting and appreciated.

I would like to extend a special thanks to AVSA President Jack Wilson and the AVSA Officers and the Board of Directors, as well as Paul Sorano, Fred Packer, and Kent and Joyce Stork. In such a difficult time it was wonderful to know that your thoughts and prayers were with me.

I truly enjoy being a part of such a great organization.

Sincerely,

Valerie Phillips Ryden

# For Beginners



**Kent and Joyce Stork**  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S.  
Fremont NE 68025

## **Violet Crown**

If you asked the average man on the street to explain a "violet crown" he would probably describe something to wear on your head. Ask an African violet grower, and you will get a far different answer! For those who are halfway between being an average person and an accomplished violet grower, the term "crown" can be quite confusing!

## **What is a Crown?**

In an African violet, the crown is the center of growth. All new leaves begin here as tiny shoots which mature into larger leaves. The result should be a beautiful rosette of leaves, all of which radiate from the center.

The AVSA Handbook for African Violet Growers, Exhibitors and Judges describes the crown as a single thick stem with a rosette of foliage attached. This is slightly misleading, in that the word stem suggests something long and narrow, whereas the crown is actually a growing point where the leaves originate. It is true, however, since each crown, as it develops more and more rows of leaves, will form a distinct stem of its own.

African violet crowns produce leaves in a sort of triangular pattern. Close study of a mature violet will reveal that as each new leaf came in, it developed about 120 degrees to the side of the previous leaf. Rather than pairs of leaves, there are triplets of leaves that form the rows of the crown.

## **Single or Multi-Crowned**

Most African violet varieties are single-crown. That means that these hybrids should be grown with only one crown, and that all other side-crowns (often called suckers) which develop need to be pruned away. Single-crown plants need to be alone in a pot of their own! If growers do not prune these suckers, a single-crown violet will develop a bushy, confused, and distorted appearance that is not pretty. As this tight tangle of leaves form, light is blocked from the crown, which

may be one reason why they are also less likely to bloom well in this condition. Bloom is also restricted by a lack of nutrition, since one root system must supply the entire mass of growth.

Trailing African violets are a distinct group of plants that are genetically multi-crowned. These plants thrive with many centers of growth and at the same time will still produce blooms. These are different from single-crown hybrids. The leaves are spaced slightly further apart as they develop, causing more of a stem to develop. There is more room for leaves from the multiple crowns to intertwine. As the trailer matures and stems lie near the soil surface, roots develop along the stems and grow into the soil to nurture each crown. Trailers are enhanced by the addition of more crowns, since each crown has adequate room and root structure to support itself, while at the same time being connected to all the other crowns.

## **Suckers or Secondary Crowns**

Many different plants produce suckers, or side shoots. Woody plants often produce suckers that grow up from the roots, for example. This is nature's way of guaranteeing the survival of the species. As the original plant matures, a secondary plant is produced which may ultimately replace the first, especially if something should cause the first to die.

Violets produce suckers, usually not from the roots, but rather between the leaves on the stem. These suckers are actually new crowns. Some varieties tend to sucker more than others, but most commonly, suckers appear when violets are stressed. This stress can come from poor culture, insects, or even as a consequence of repotting or disbudding for show competition. Anything that upsets the usual routine of growing may cause your violet to react with suckering as though its survival is in question.

When a sucker, or secondary crown, first appears, it will be very tiny. Two leaves will emerge, to be followed shortly thereafter by a third and fourth leaf. This is different from a

blossom stem which will grow from approximately the same place that a sucker would develop (both are growing points). A blossom stem may produce two "wing" leaves before the buds are apparent, but it will not produce the additional leaves that indicate a sucker is forming.

Most suckers on single-crown violets are undesirable. If allowed to develop beyond the stage of a few leaves, they will begin to distort the leaf pattern of the original plant. Even a very young sucker can push the mature leaf above it into a different position from the rest of the foliage. Good growers can look across a bank of well-grown violets, spot the plant that has one leaf pushed up and know that a sucker is growing there. If that sucker were left to mature, it would be very difficult to tell which crown was the original and which was the secondary one.

### Pruning Suckers

In the first stages, suckers can easily be pruned away with a dull pencil point or narrow probing tool. Poke or prod gently behind the lowest leaf of the sucker until the leaves come away from the stem. Done properly, the entire crown will come away intact with all of the tiny leaves attached to each other. If instead, the leaves come away in separate pieces, it will be necessary to dig into the same spot again, but slightly deeper, to be sure that the growing point is gone. If this is not done, another sucker will soon appear in the same spot.

Suckers will sometimes form when a mature plant has been repotted a little too deeply, so that the stems of the lowest leaves are partially covered with potting mix. These suckers may come away with some roots attached.

The suckers can be discarded, or they can be potted into their own container and grown to maturity. If the sucker has no roots, it should be enclosed in a transparent bag or container after placing it in its own pot. Within a few weeks, new roots will have formed and the plant will take off quickly.

### Forcing Suckers

Normally, secondary crowns are undesirable, but in the case of chimeras (a special group of African violets) propagation is possible only from suckers. This is because chimeras have two sets of genetic material in one plant. Chimeras are notable for the dramatic center stripe of color on each petal lobe of the blossom, giving them a pin-wheel effect. Leaf cuttings will produce offspring that carry only one of the sets of genes, resulting in plants usually with solid-color blossoms. Suckers taken from the original plant will generally bloom true with the pinwheel pattern.

Because chimeras are so unique and beautiful, growers

will often force the mother plant to produce secondary crowns. This is done by paring out the center of the original plant. This pared-out crown can be potted in the same manner as a sucker without roots. Since the center growth point is gone, a chimera violet will react to preserve its survival, and secondary crowns will form at various points on the stem. Multiple crowns may also grow where the original crown was pruned. These young crowns should be removed as soon as they are adequately large enough, to encourage the mother plant to continue suckering.

### Crown Troubles

Crowns will often indicate the health of the plant. African violet crowns should have actively growing leaves that have a rich green color, but are delicate with only a light "peach fuzz" hairiness. Gray tones might indicate a serious infestation of cyclamen mites or the onset of a fungus. A thickened or twisted look, or a coarse hairiness might also indicate the presence of mites.

Orange crust on the center leaves of the crown results from the presence of too much fertilizer. Leaching the soil with clear water and temporarily discontinuing fertilizer will usually improve the situation.

Stunting is a problem that is usually first evident in the crown. New growth ceases and leaves fail to increase in size. It can be the result of serious problems with the potting mix, usually either in pH level or in lack of aeration. It may also result from pollution, some less-common insects, or fungal disease. Stunting is not itself a disease, but rather the symptom of another problem.

We frequently repot violets for customers in our flower shop. On occasion we've had people bring in plants with a split crown. These are otherwise healthy plants which have spontaneously formed two crowns in the center of a plant. It can be caused by some sort of physical damage to the plant, but sometimes there just seems to be a defect in the center that causes it to split. In our experience, trying to save crowns from these plants is usually futile, since they will often split again. It appears that it is better to start a new plant from a leaf cutting.

### Love Those Crowns

Nature does something very special with African violet crowns. When they are grown well, the resulting symmetry of overlapping rows of leaves, interspersed with lovely flowers, is almost too perfect. Many of the top growers are people who are true perfectionists, and there are few plants which so lend themselves to that level of perfection. African violets are one of nature's crowning achievements.



# In Search of New Violets



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A person new to hybridizing who wants to make some predictions about the outcome of various crosses will need to know some genetic terms and how to apply them to actual crosses. Because our AVSA membership changes over time, this column will repeat information that was part of a previous column.

Many of you have seen references to genetic traits that are “dominant” or “recessive”. But what can you expect to get when you breed a plant with a dominant trait with another plant with a dominant trait? The results in the offspring usually follow certain patterns. The following table will give you some of the expected results from simple genetic crosses with dominant and recessive traits.

1. Dominant X Dominant  
Result = all Dominant offspring  
**or** 75% Dominant and 25% Recessive
2. Dominant X Recessive  
Result = all Dominant offspring  
**or** 50% Dominant and 50% Recessive
3. Recessive X Recessive  
Result = all Recessive offspring

The percentages given for the offspring are approximate values. The actual results you get may vary considerably from these percentages. Note that two of the crosses have more than one possible outcome. The difference is dependent on whether the plant has one or two doses of the dominant trait. If the parent has two doses of the dominant trait, the first outcome will result. If the parent has only one dose of the dominant trait, it will still express the dominant trait in its physical makeup, but the hidden recessive trait can be expressed in the next generation in the offspring. The result in these cases will be the second possible outcome.

**Q:** *If I cross plants that were originally the same multiple crown plant, or were two plantlets from the same leaf, will I get the same result as self-pollinating the flowers on one individual plant?*

**A:** Plants produced by splitting a multiple crown individual should be genetically identical. Likewise, two plantlets from the same should be genetically identical (although differences or mutations do sometimes happen). Even though there are two individual plants involved, genetically they are not different. The results of these crossings would be the same as self-pollinating a flower on one plant. Only one genetic type is serving as both male and female parent in all of these cases.

However, if one of the parents is a sport produced from a leaf cutting, the observed genetic difference in the sport implies that the plant is no longer exactly genetically identical to the other plantlets. Crossing a sport to the original sibling would not be equivalent to a self-pollination and might possibly result in more variation in the offspring.

**Q:** *If I self-pollinate flowers of the *Saintpaulia* species plants, will the seeds produce offspring exactly like the parent plant or will I be able to get some variations?*

**A:** Many plants in the Gesneriad family are routinely reproduced by self-pollination. These plants may be difficult to grow from cuttings or the seed is a better method to store or ship the plant. My limited experience in growing the *Saintpaulia* species from seed suggests that most of the offspring from a self-pollination will be identical or nearly identical to the parent. However, I have on rare occasion observed some variations in the offspring. Whether the variation was due to the recombination of traits from the parent, or a stray pollen grain from another source was never clear to me. However, history does tell us that early growers

reproduced African violets from seed rather than leaf cuttings. They soon found various color forms in the offspring (reddish, white etc.) so it seems likely that you could get some variations within the species plants by reproducing them through self-pollinations and growing out the resulting seed.

**Q:** I love the foliage of the species, especially *S. grandifolia* and *S. velutina*. What crosses can one make to preserve that foliage yet have red blossoms similar in color to 'Powwow' or 'Tomahawk'?

**A:** I would start by crossing your favorite species (for the foliage) and your favorite red flowered plant (for the flower color) together. The blue flower color of the species will be dominant and all of the F1 offspring will have blue flowers. Some of the offspring may also have single dropper flowers. Try to find an F1 offspring that has foliage similar to the species parent and good flowers. Look for non-dropping blooms and a high bloom count. Self-pollinate this plant to get the F2 generation.

I would expect many of the F2 offspring to vary in their foliage type. Some should resemble the species grandparent,

but some will not. The chance of getting the coral red color in the flowers is very low because this color will require a double recessive trait combination. Only about 1/16 or about 6% will be coral red. The species grandparent will also add a dominant bluing factor that may make the coral red flowers dusky rather than bright in tone. Off-hand, I would expect the probability of getting the triple recessive necessary for bright red coral flowers to be about 1.5%. Add in the chance of getting these flowers on the foliage type you want and the odds lower even more.

The chance of getting the combination you want isn't impossible, it's just highly unlikely. A way to help would be to select seedlings in the F2 generation for the proper foliage while they are young and only grow up these plants. You'll need to grow a large number to beat the odds for the bright red coral flowers. But remember, you'll only need to get one plant to meet your original goal.

Of the two species you mentioned, I might suggest working with *S. grandifolia*. This species grows faster than *S. velutina* and is much more free in flowering enabling you to keep a high bud count in the offspring. Good Luck!



## Misting and Foliar Feeding

Most gesneriads enjoy the added moisture received by occasional misting, especially if the air is very dry. Any standard trigger-head sprayer will work, even an old (and rinsed out) Windex spray bottle will be fine. Since a fine mist of water will feel cool because of the evaporation process, I find that slightly warm water is better for misting your plants. Never spray a plant with cold or hot water.

Leaves that have been put down to root or fresh cuttings can benefit from misting, as they have not developed a root system to draw up the moisture they require.

It has always been thought that plant roots were the only way a plant took up food, that leaves were concerned only with photosynthesis transpiration and possibly the absorption of small amounts of moisture. It has now been proven that the stems, leaves, and fruits of plants can absorb nutrients through the same channels. Foliar spraying has become a valuable way of presenting plants with nutrients through their leaves.

For the indoor gardener, foliar feeding is very easy. Diluted amounts of fertilizer can be applied the same way as you mist. I would not suggest that this be your only method of feeding your plants, as only a portion of N-P-K (Nitrogen-

Phosphorus-Potassium) required by plants can be applied through leaves. This is a supplementary feeding system that has extremely effective results, especially on those plants grown for foliage such as *Episcia*. Regular foliar feeding brings out a new depth to the quilted texture of this kind of leaf.

Of course, the more natural types of plant food work best. Products such as Bounty and Sturdy have been used for some time with good results. Products containing artificial color can leave a residue of this color on leaves if any large drops are formed. Seaweed extract is also excellent for foliar feeding, as it contains major and minor plant nutrients as well as trace elements.

It is known that the minerals in seaweed spray are absorbed through the skin of the leaf into the sap of the plant. Plants treated with seaweed products seem to have a better resistance to pests and diseases, not only to sap-sucking insects such as red spider mites and aphids, but also to mildew and fungi.

*From African Violet and Gesneriad News*

# “And the winners are ...”



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**ALPHA AVS, FIRST AVS OF DALLAS, FIRST NIGHTER AVS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Barbara Ann, Party Print, Louise Constant; Best in Show/Best Standard: Barbara Ann, **Martha Turner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Tomahawk, Smooch Me, **Mary Corondan**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Deano, Little Pro; Best Miniature: Peppy Pink, **Ray Pittman**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Hector, Irish Flirt; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Richard Nicholas**. Best Trailer: Summer Wind Trail; Design Sweepstakes, **Janice Davidson**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Amanda Penny', **Grace Davis**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Bill Foster**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Hortense Pittman**. Best Design, **Ann Nicholas**.

**AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA, GA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Mindi Brooke, Concord; Best Standard: Granger's Wonderland, **Lois Duvall**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Toy Castle, Rob's Thingamajig, Pink Dove; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hand Puppet; Best Miniature: Pink Dove; Best Trailer: Blustery Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Cathy Carter**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Firebird', **Nancy Turner**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Laura Walker**.

**AVS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Velvet Brocade, Irish Whisper, Happy Harold, **Julie Fox**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, Annabelle, Candy Swirls; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Milky Way Trail, Cirelda, Marion's Enchanted Trail; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Cirelda; Best Standard: Smooch Me; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Monkeyshines; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Black Gold', **Tricia Taylor**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Marsha Loveland**.

**AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF GREATER TULSA, OK – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Blame Doris, Natchurly Nawlins, Powwow; Best Standard: Natchurly Nawlins, **Malvene List**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi Morn, Swamp Turtle, Rapid Transit; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Ellie Gardner, **Shirley Lumpkin**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Rose Quartz, Honey

Blue Angel, Rob's Ice Ripples; Best Miniature: Honey Blue Angel; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Judy Carter**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Jealous Heart', **Phyllis Enos**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jeanne Cotton**.

**AVS OF PENSACOLA, FL – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Playful Rainbow, Pensi Orchid; Best in Show/Best Standard: Strawberry Wave, **George Starr**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Hondo Honey; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Best Miniature: Little White Clouds; Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Louise Merritt**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Estelle Starr**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* lite, **Jan Kurtz**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Fire Lizard'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jean Jones**.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA AVS, FL – Winners:** Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Standard: Lyon's Victorian Valentine; Best Design, **Elvie Clendenning**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Tamiana'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Evelyn Briggs**.

**CORPUS CHRISTI AVS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kiss of Fire, Optimara North Carolina, Impostor, **Elizabeth Riggle**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Dean's Aquarius, Pink Skies; Best in Show: Rodeo Country; Best Miniature: Dawn Michelle; Best Trailer: Dresden Doll; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Canterbury Surprise'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marjorie Bullard**. Best Semiminiature: Honey Pink Jewel, **Glenda Ehrlich**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sarah Stensland**.

**FANTASY AVC, FL – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Monet, Optimara Georgia, Rhapsodie Maria; Best Semiminiature: Teen Thunder; Best Miniature: Winsome; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Anna Horvath**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Toorooka, Cookie Trail, Dancin' Trail; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Cookie Trail, **Ann Gramstorff**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Goldfish Orange', **Ilse Schroeder**. Best Design, **Pat Dupke**.

**FIRST AUSTIN AVS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Gizmo, Rob's Outer Orbit; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Sassy Shirley;

Best Standard: Kiwi Dazzler; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jeannette Pursley**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mister Sneazy, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Aloha Rhodes**. Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Chrysothemis pulchella*; Best Design, **Delores Gibbs**. Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Freeman**.

**GEORGIA AV JUDGES SOCIETY, GA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Frosted Whisper, Favorite Child; Best Standard: Granger's Wonderland, **Lois Duvall**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hand Puppet, Rob's Dandy Lion, Rob's Calypso Beat, **Janice Norton**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Persian Lace, Kid Karla; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Persian Lullaby; Best Trailer: Little Chippery Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Cathy Carter**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus wettsteinii*, **Laura Walker**. Best Design, **Betty Lewis**.

**MAGIC KNIGHT AVS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pink Obsession, Memphis In May, This Bud's Mine, **Steven Spachek**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Barbados, Rhapsodie Juliana, Pink Energy; Best Design, **Irene Harney**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Texas Space Dust, Rob's Ice Ripples; Best Semiminiature: Tiptop; Best Miniature: Rob's Rinky Dink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Diamond, Optimara Little Ruby, Optimara Little Crystal; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo, **Shirley Sanders**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Design Sweepstakes, **Dea Johnson**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Purple Robe', **Margie Crawford**.

**MEMPHIS AVS, TN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Painted Desert, Smooch Me, Powwow; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Orchard's Night Light, Ness' Sno Fun; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Avis Winnie; Best Standard: Smooch Me; Best Trailer: Fun Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Geneva Stagg**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Trinidad, Granger's Fantasy Lace, Summer Coral; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Diane Marie'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Rhona Thurman**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sunspot, Rob's Little Pueblo, Boo Man, **Gary Thurman**. Best Miniature: Knight Magic, **Katherine Steele**.

**MONTGOMERY AVS AND CAPITAL CITY AVS, AL – Winner:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Makin' Romance, My Wicked Ways, Pink Camisole; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Donna Ferguson**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Coral Sunset, Wrangler's Luv Texas, Frosted Whisper; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Thunder, Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Beginner's Luck; Best Standard: Ness' Coral Sunset, **Archie Boyd**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Thunder, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Pink Skies; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Trailer: Baby Brian, **Mary Chamberland**. Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush, **Linda Boyd**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Marty Davis**. Best Gesneriad *Streptocarpus* 'Alicia', **Doris Till**.

**POMONA VALLEY AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Enchanted April, Ness' Coral Sunset,

Victorian Flirt; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Miniature: Rob's June Bug; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Vinciguerra**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Rob's Snake Charmer; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Firebird', **Gini McCanne**. Best Standard: Tribute to Bill; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Louise Koop**.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN AVS, CO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Peach Puff, Ghost Dance, Ness' Coral Sunset; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Candy Crystals, Precious Pink, Rob's Outer Orbit; Best in Show/Best Standard: Peach Puff; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper, **Betty Margetts**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Royal Flair, Rosie Ruffles, Floozie; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea microphylla*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Harry Weber**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Rose Quartz, Rob's Twinkle Blue, Optimara Little Pearl, **Nelly Levine**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Design, **Millissa Culver**. Design Sweepstakes, **Kari Long**.

**SPRING BRANCH AVC, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mary Craig, Rodeo Country, Apache Victory, **Lenora Munk**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Rodeo Country, Sedona, **J. C. Munk**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Precious Pink, Rob's Seduction; Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Vickie Crider**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Tourmaline, Optimara Little Moonstone, Optimara Little Opal; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Foster Trail; Best Standard: Rodeo Polka; Best Miniature: Peppy Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Midnight Flame'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Meredith Hall**. Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Goeke**.

**TUCSON AVS, AZ – Winners:** Best in Show/Best Standard: Rhapsodie Clementine; Best Semiminiature: Cathy's Fireworks, **Doris Morris**. Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Jealous Heart', **Deb Weinman**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Fuller**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Hattie Baggett**.

**VIOLET PATCH OF SOUTH FLORIDA, FL – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt, Precious Pink; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse, **Eugene Allerton**. Best Standard: Rhapsodie Pamela, **Lea Hemphill**. Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia intermedia*, **Martha Spyridon**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Moonlight Valley'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Elisabeth Stanley**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Castellanos**.

**WICHITA AV STUDY CLUB, KS – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, Rodeo Country, Lela Marie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lela Marie; Best Trailer: Fun Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Sunset'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Helen Barrett**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kathe Denise, Marching Band, Rain Man; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heat Wave, Rob's Mad Cat, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Mad Cat; Best Miniature: Rob's Smarty Pants, **Faye Wieditz**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani, **Mary Smith**.

# Question Box



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Reflections on being involved in the production of a show are a combination of seeing how the other members grow, admiring new varieties, the nitty-gritty of planning, staging and the public's reaction to the show as well as to African violets. This must be a team effort to succeed and the rewards are in the camaraderie, excitement, and a sense of satisfaction of a job well done. The African violet club where I'm a member has just completed their annual show, including all of the various off-shoots such as "Leaf Bingo" (leaves of winners), and super blossom types for design. Everything in between is brought in to 'share' at the next meeting. This is the time for going over the judge's critique and looking for ways to make the show run more smoothly or easily next time. You always need to take stock to see if perhaps there is a new 'wrinkle' that will assist the club in putting on the Annual Show, as well as offer useful information to the membership. At almost every show I've been involved in, (lots and lots of shows) the need for members to know more about their plants' 'Pedigree' has been very apparent. As a remedy, the following idea seems to have merit. All exhibitors look up each of their entries in the Master Variety List (MVL), then include on the entry sheet the registration number, if registered, and all descriptive information available. With this information in front of them, it's quite easy to place plants in the proper class and see which choices are eligible to be entered in a collection. Some clubs have a meeting just before the show to help the members with their entry sheets. In case they do not have an MVL, one is available for them to use and hopefully will encourage them to buy a copy of their own. This is available from AVSA, and the address is on the inside page of the cover of the African Violet Magazine. If the exhibitor writes down all of the plants that **might** have a chance to go to show, the entries chairman will be most grateful to delete the plants that didn't make it, rather

than do a bunch of new entries. To encourage this practice, we limit the number of entries not pre-registered to five at show time.

On page 46 of the January/February 2001 African Violet Magazine is an outstanding aid (special thanks to Bill Foster and Mary Ann Corrigan) for all of you that are trying to make a decision about any plant going to show, but especially for those choosing the plants to go in your collection where having a high scoring plant is important. It's also handy for a more graphic look at the flaws you need to correct as you grow for the next show. With the great importance of symmetry, be sure to move the leaves as soon as noticeable to avoid gaps either by regular turning or by moving the wayward leaf with stops on the leaf support, swizzle sticks at the point of bend in a petiole, or wadded up thin plastic to gently move the leaves to their proper position. Most other problems are easily corrected with proper care such as re-potting often, good light, consistent care in fertilizing, and daily inspection to head off problems.

This was our second show using "First Class" which is a real **plus**, but especially for classification, entries, the collection sheets, and labeling. If your club can manage to get the necessary equipment to run this program, you will have a more calm, happy, and less frustrated Classification/Entries chairman or committee.

**QUESTION:** *I read an article that said you should brush your violets to keep them clean. I have many semi-miniatures and miniatures and took the time to brush each and every one! In a few days, many of the outer rows of leaves were wilted and droopy. What could have caused this problem?*

**ANSWER:** Without seeing the plants I can only guess as to what has happened. If you are going to brush any plant,



you want to get the softest possible brush, as African violets leaves are tender and easily bruised. I know many growers that use a good quality 'blusher' brush and others that buy the best sable artists brush. Even a very soft brush can damage a leaf if it is used in a heavy handed manner. I don't let anyone brush my plants for any reason. This is a sore subject for me, as my very first show 22 years ago included a very unhappy experience. One of the members wanted all of our leaves to be perfect for the judging, without a hint of dust or dirt, so she carefully brushed each and every plant. So plus all my excitement of doing very well my first time out at showing African Violets, I went home with *my first case of mites*, as did several other members! For this and many other reasons I subscribe to plant 'washing' which I try to do every six or eight week. Washing consists of taking the plant to the sink where I have a dish drainer that I turn up-side-down and place the plant in the groove which holds the plates in place. This puts the plant at about a 45 degree angle and leaves both hands free to work with the plant. Using a sprayer which can be pumped-up I set it to jet (rather than mist) and starting in the next row from the growth tip, wash each leaf, turning the plant as I go until I have washed off all traces of debris, including dog or cat hair. This water is still warm, as I draw regular tap-water, not softened of course, as hot as possible and allow it to cool. It takes a quart or two of water to do a standard size plant and if there are many plants to do, the less desirable water is not going to affect the foliage when only done occasionally. When I do the daily misting or foliar feeding, I use distilled water, which is heated in the microwave, using a quart Pyrex measuring cup (four cups) for five minutes. This is very hot, but I mist early in the day and water being sprayed on a plant cools very rapidly and could shock the plant. The plants stay quite clean as not only are they dampened, (I only mist till the plant looks a bit frosted, not wet) but the action of misting also helps clean the leaves, a bit like a puff of air on each plant. All plants are washed before being shown, taking care not to spray the blossoms. If I've had to add soil for some reason, I start by washing off all the petioles before doing the foliage.

**QUESTION:** *I'm a new grower and have an occasional problem with a plant where the leaves go limp, even though it is in the same soil mix, and is watered and fertilized the same as all the other plants. It does seem to be very heavy as if it were getting too much water. I use a wick watering system. Occasionally, I find a few white spots on the leaves of all the plants, but I spray them with Schultz House and Garden Insect Spray which says it is OK for white flies. Maybe I don't know what the little white spots are on the plants. Can you help?*

**ANSWER:** This sounds like there may be two problems. First, the plant that is going limp may have too large an amount of soil for the root ball. Could this be a small plant in too large a pot? Otherwise, I'd be inclined to think you might have soil mealybugs, and a few of the critters have been crawling up on the foliage, as it sounds like the plant is in

distress. If the infestation of mealybugs is severe, it can cause the leaves to go limp. They are very easy to spot on the root ball, as they make white nest material against the side of the pot, often near the top. They will move slightly if prodded. If this is what you have, you need to get rid of all the soil, wash the plant and roots with a mild detergent, rinse well and re-pot into fresh soil and a clean pot. As to there being White Flies on the plants, I would have my doubts. First, they fly when touched and don't usually come into the house. The description would lead me to think you are seeing foliar mealybugs, if these are not soil mealies. It's possible that your spray is keeping them in check but very doubtful as they have waxy bodies which are resistant to insecticides. Look at **all** of the root balls and be sure you didn't carry soil mealybugs home in a plant you purchased. Foliar mealybugs can be controlled by dipping a Q-Tip in alcohol and removing all of the white material especially in the axils of the leaves. However, control only comes from careful watching and immediate removal of any sign of mealybugs.

**QUESTION:** *The literature on growing to show suggests you keep all blooms off of the show plants by disbudding for up to six months before show. I keep my African violets in bloom year round and when a show comes along I chose those that look nice and do very well, getting many blue ribbons. Why do they recommend disbudding when you can grow a plant that will win a blue ribbon and be in bloom almost all the time?*

**ANSWER:** These suggestions are for growing a plant that has the best possible symmetry, most and largest blossoms, outstanding appeal and the chance of taking home "Best In Show". If a plant has 100 blossoms as opposed to 35 for the same variety, you can see why it will rank much higher in the judges opinion than the one with fewer blossoms. The most noticeable difference is the near perfect symmetry of the plant which reached full development of it's foliage before it was allowed to bloom. A plant can receive a blue ribbon, but never be considered for a higher award. This is a personal preference. Do you want to have a plant to enjoy fairly constantly, or are you interested in winning? Not everyone has the same goals which is the reason hobbies are so much fun. They appeal to many people with varying ideas and tastes.

**QUESTION:** *The African violet mix I was using was prepared from an inexpensive mix available in most chain stores such as KMart and even some drug stores. You added a few parts perlite and sponge rock and had soil which grew very nice African violets, at least for me. For some reason the mix was changed and now is a very poor soil, forcing me to try other products that have given me OK results but are much more expensive. Do you have any idea what happened to this product?*

**ANSWER:** The problem with mixes lies in what is available generally and also locally. Many of the things I was using when I began to grow are now in short supply and they were plentiful 25 years ago. One of the products I looked at

recently seemed to be nothing but ground wood and bark. This poses yet another problem. Does the wood material need to be leached before it is used? In the interest of getting full use of our natural resources, almost every tree cleared or trimmed by a large group (cities, counties, developers and the timber industries) is mulched into a product for use in agriculture or building. While I'm glad to see good use of our

natural resources, this leaves the grower in some doubt as to which mix is OK to use. Unless they are clearly marked as to ingredients, I would look for a brand that suited African violets or mix my own. When mixing, a word of caution - measure carefully and **don't guess** as to amounts.

*Name of columnist replying is in bold print*



# African Violet Horticulture

Dr. Jan Kurtz

No matter how long I grow violets, how many ribbons I win, or how many programs I hear, I'm always anxious to learn of the horticultural practices of growers I admire.

Over the years, I have been known to run home from hearing a new idea, and jump to convert all my violets over to a new totally new plan. Some plans took me forward, and others were totally wrong for my situation. My advice to you is to learn what you can from the advice of other culturists and adopt new methods to a few plants at a time. Maybe by giving you this advice, I will learn to follow it myself but no guarantees!

Archie Boyd has been a member of Capital City AVS of Montgomery, Alabama, for fifteen years. Archie is also a member of the Alabama Judges and Growers Council, and has been winning his fair share of blue ribbons for beautifully grown plants as long as I can remember. He has crafted several tools to help with his repotting, which comes naturally to him since he has been a machinist for more or less thirty-five years.

Although he will tell you to be smart and don't start, Archie was gifted with two brass flowerpots from his mother, and he and his wife Linda thought it would be nice to put African violets in these pots. They purchased some from a nursery, but somehow they never made it to the brass pots. Yet they've had that first violet for eighteen years now!

Archie has a motto about growing, "Keep it simple". He spends a good deal of time at work, likes to travel with his wife, Linda, and needs to keep his cultural practices simple, so he has adopted a straight forward plan. If a plant doesn't fit into the plan, he doesn't grow it.

His plan involves using Promix soil mixed with Styrofoam beads. He feels that Perlite holds much more water than the Styrofoam and he gets a healthier root system in this soil. He wick waters with Dyna-Gro and has used his

machinist skills to arrange a pumping system for easy watering. He bubbles the water in the tank for two hours a day, and waters at night using this water at room temperature and with fertilizer added (one tablespoon to fifteen gallons). He fills his quart size reservoirs, and doesn't clean them each time.

Archie uses Clorox to clean out the tank and the clear tubing/hose as needed. He uses cool white fluorescent bulbs on to twelve inch centers, six to eight inches above the plants and changes them when the bulbs go dark.

Archie finds Neem oil to be a good agent when pests appear, using it every two to three weeks at one teaspoon per sixteen ounces. If he sees soil mealybugs on a plant he has purchased, he throws it out.

Propagation and grooming are also simplified. He treats leaves just like he grows his plants, with the same soil, fertilizer and watering. He treats all his plants like they are going to a show. He has no particular schedule for repotting, just lets the plants tell him when they need more room, generally repotting twice - once to a 2 - 2 1/4 inch pot and second to a 3 1/4 - 4 inch pot. He grooms to encourage good symmetry, removes undersized leaves, keeps his plants clean, and removes spent blossoms regularly. Archie spends the least time in the spring, more in the summer, and two to three hours a night, three to five nights a week in the last couple of months before a show.

Here are some of the plants that have brought him many blue ribbons:

Bertha, Coral Sunset, Denise, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Purr Pink, Shameless Flirt, Irish Flirt, Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Fuzzy Navel, and Ness' Angel Blush.

*From "The Dixie News"*

JULY • AUGUST 2001

# Methods of Propagation from Leaves

First of all, you need to prepare your leaf cutting. After the leaf has been removed from the parent plant, the petiole should be cut at an angle leaving about 3cm attached to the leaf blade. If the leaf blade (lamina) is large, it is often a good idea to remove the top half cleanly with a sharp razor blade. See diagram (i). Now you have a choice of several methods of planting and caring for your cutting. In each case, label your pot.



Diagram (i)

## First method - diagram (ii)

This is the most used method. Place your leaf in a small pot containing a wick and filled with potting mix moistened with rooting hormone. Place your pot on a layer of newspaper until it is well drained. Place the pot in a zip-lock plastic bag and seal. Place this in a warm, well lit position. Keep an eye on the pot to be sure it does not dry out, and in about six weeks, a baby plant should appear.



Diagram (ii)

## Second Method - see diagram (iii)

After placing your leaf in a small pot containing potting mix moistened with rooting hormone, drain and place pot in a plastic butter or margarine container and cover with plastic film. If you are concerned that the potting mix will dry out, keep the film firmly in place with a rubber band. If you have two or three leaves in pots, place them together in an ice-cream container and cover with plastic film. Place container in a warm light position and wait! This method is useful if you find that pots in plastic bags fall over.

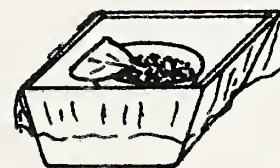


Diagram (iii)

## Third Method - see diagram (iv)

This method is used when you have several leaves to propagate. Prepare your pots as in above methods then place them in a seed raising box which can be purchased at a nursery. It consists of a base with a transparent cover which acts as a mini greenhouse.



Diagram (iv)

## Fourth Method - Diagram (v)

This method is for those who want a lot of plantlets. Place five or six leaves dipped in rooting hormone, in a bowl filled with potting mix covered with a layer of vermiculite. The bowl should have three or four wicks. Do not cover the bowl. Stand the bowl in a saucer of water and allow the potting mix to absorb water. Place under lights in a dry saucer and add water plus fertilizer to the saucer to keep the potting mix moist until the leaf cuttings produce plantlets. Place on a wick watering system. When babies are larger, cut off the mother leaf to allow the babies to become self sufficient.



Diagram(v)

*These methods were demonstrated by Sheila and Bernie Walton, Kerry Knight, and Sue Gardner.*

*From the newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group, Inc.*

# "Fine Tuning" Your Showplants

by Ralph Robinson

*Note: Originally appeared in the Empire Violet Magazine, September, 1990. It has been rewritten, and reflects our growing environment at that time.*

One important lesson that I've learned in growing showplants is that timing is (almost) everything. This is particularly true in entering collections or commercial display tables, where a large number of plants need to look wonderful all on the same day. Fine tuning showplants, in an attempt to get them to peak at the same time, is a necessity. Of course, the same is true if you are hoping to enter just a few plants.

To do this successfully, the first thing the serious exhibitor needs is a calendar. The kinds with the large boxes for each day are the best, since you can write in these and see what you've written at a glance. Each time you grow for show, note the progress of your showplants on the calendar at given time intervals preceding the show. Note when the final disbudding of plants is done, when flower buds begin to poke through the foliage, when the first bloom appears, and when the plant nears full bloom. When the show is over, note whether the plants were lacking in open bloom or whether it was past its prime. Also note the maturity of the plant, which is especially when growing large standard plants, where size is often important. Keep the calendar for the next year's show and use it for guidance.

Your own experience is always best but, lacking that, here's what I've done. For most shows, my final disbudding is nine to ten weeks before the date of the show. About six weeks prior to the show, flower buds should begin poking through the layer of foliage above. A week later, I expect to see my first bloom, and it should have a half-dozen or so at about three to four weeks before the show. About one week before the show, plants should look ready to go. If it's a good variety for show, the existing blooms should last without fading and the extra time will allow the smaller, secondary buds to open. I should note that this schedule is for plants grown in relatively cool conditions - nighttime lows of 60-62F degrees and daytime highs no higher than 70F. Subtract perhaps a week from the schedule for every three degrees warmer. For shows much later in the spring, when growing conditions are much warmer, I do subtract a couple of weeks. If my showplants are not on schedule, I take corrective measures.

If plants are behind schedule, do one or more of the following things. First, increase the temperature. I prefer to grow my showplants as cool as possible, since this improves the bloom color and size. However, if plants seem to be blooming slowly, increase the temperature, but not to higher than 80F degrees, daytime. At this temperature, you will get plenty of bloom very quickly, but it won't stay fresh very long. Without touching your home's thermostat, one easy way of adding five degrees of heat or so is by simply moving plants to a higher shelf on your light stand - from the floor, and closer to the ceiling. Also, have in mind which places in the room are the warmest and coolest, and place plants accordingly.

A second adjustment is in light intensity and length. Increase the amount of light your plants are getting by moving them closer to the light, particularly the centers of the tubes, where lights are the brightest. One easy way of doing this is to place plants on empty, inverted pots or similar items. I've used tin cans for this purpose - soup cans, sauce cans, etc. A variety of different heights can be collected.

You might also increase the hours of light the plants are getting. Normally, my plants get thirteen hours of light daily. As the show approaches, if plants are behind schedule, this can be increased to fourteen hours. If you're desperate, you can place showplants as close as three to four inches from the lights and keep them on for up to sixteen hours a day. Do this with great caution, and only as needed, though. Never place plants this close at the end of the light fixtures, since the heat is too great there. Also be careful when doing this with varieties having light green foliage, fragile (or single) blooms, or white blooms. It's always best, too, to make changes as gradually as possible. Keeping a close eye on their progress as the show approaches helps you in avoiding last minute, drastic, measures.

A third adjustment is in humidity. Plants will bloom more quickly, and blooms will last longer, in a relatively humid, but not soggy, environment. Though I water showplants from the top, pots rest on egg-crating laid over the shelves. I can fill trays below plants with water to increase humidity in the desired area. For those growers using capillary matting or community-wicked trays, this isn't necessary - it's more than likely that your humidity is already high enough. This is the least likely adjustment that I will make, since it seems to have the least effect and, like the others, can present its own problems.

Finally, you may want to change the formula and strength of the fertilizer being used, though this can be risky and really isn't necessary if the culture is generally good. I typically use a balanced (17-17-17, for example) formula all of the time, right until the day of the show. This type of formula encourages dark foliage without sacrificing much in bloom. I've never found it necessary to use high phosphorus, bloom-boosting fertilizers in order to get massive amounts of bloom on showplants. Good culture and proper disbudding seems to be enough. Many growers, however, will switch to a fertilizer higher in phosphorus (the middle number) after the final disbudding, to encourage additional bloom. The amount of the fertilizer might also be increased. This should be done with extreme caution, though, since I've known more than one exhibitor to damage a showplant by overfertilization. Also be careful in using "bloom boosting" fertilizers excessively high in phosphorus, or lacking nitrogen (the first number), since this can cause foliage to turn pale, or lose color. This is true even for variegated varieties - variegation depends much more on temperature than it does on nitrogen content of

fertilizers. For plants that seem to be peaking too early, just take the opposite measures. Lower temperature and light to slow down growth and blooming. Plants on my first AVSA display table were kept in a dark closet for a week before the show! They were in full bloom well before the show, and it was the only way to get them to stop growing. I learned this trick from a more experienced exhibitor who would put such plants in hat-boxes. It worked, too - the blooms had lost some of their color, but very few were lost, and I went home with some awards.

Monitor your showplants almost constantly, and make the necessary adjustments. Plants may need to be moved on an almost a weekly basis, even a daily basis, the week before the show. Keep a record of what adjustments you made and whether they worked. Next year, you'll be able to learn from your success or failure. This seems like quite an inconvenience, and it often is, but the rewards are worth it, come the day of the show.

From *VioletsFun* Photojournal

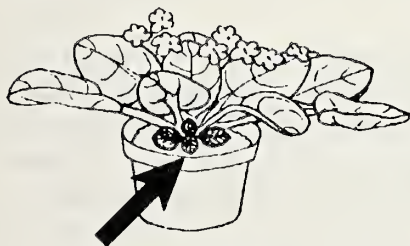
# Propagating Chimeras

by Gary Beck • San Francisco, CA

In horticulture, a chimera is a plant consisting of diverse genetic constitution, growing separate but adjacent to each other. The result in African violets is a pinwheel or striped blossom. One color rays out from the center over another color to the outer edge.

Plants with these attractive star-shaped blossoms will not reproduce true by means of leaf propagation. The three recommended methods of propagation are:

**Suckers:** These are vegetative side shoots from either the main stem or the roots. Once an obvious separate plant, remove and grow in a covered pot until it becomes a healthy, rooted plant.



**SUCKER**



**SUCKER REMOVED FROM PLANT**

**Center crown removal:** Cut out a quarter-sized amount of the plant's crown and allow side shoots to grow. Remove and propagate these as suckers.



**CENTER WITH ITS CROWN REMOVED**

**Flower stems (Peduncles):** Choose one that has two healthy leaves attached, clip blossoms and stems (pedicels), cut peduncle to one inch, and propagate as a sucker. New plants will sprout from the axils where the flowers were. When mature, treat these as suckers.



**FLOWER STEM REMOVED FROM PLANT**

Be aware that these methods do not guarantee success. But once the plants bloom true, you can admire the beautiful striped blossoms of a chimera.

From "The CA Council News"

# To Wick or Not To Wick

by Renee Trenhoim

There seems to be much controversy concerning whether or not wick watering is the best method for African violets. Many people insist that the soil must be allowed to dry between waterings in order for the plants to stay healthy. Just as many people argue that top watering is most beneficial because it leaches salts out of the soil. While both of these arguments may be true, if you have a large number of plants, wick watering may still be your preferred method. I would love to be able to check my plants daily and water them just as the soil gets dry. I would also love to be able to top water each plant to leach out any build up of salts. Unfortunately, I do not have time to do either of these, and I am not willing to thin my collection to a reasonable number of plants to be able to. Wick watering is the option I chose many years ago and, for me, it's the only option since I choose to have more plants than I can handle otherwise.

If you don't wick water your plants, you might want to try it. Many people have grown award-winning show plants on wicks. All my show plants have always been wick watered and I've had good results. My argument for wick watering is simple: it frees you to enjoy your plants more and you can use the extra time for grooming, repotting or putting down leaves.

For those of you not familiar with wick watering, let me explain how it's done. You can start with any size plant. Choose an appropriately sized pot and pull a length of yarn up through one of the holes in the bottom. I use a 4-ply worsted weight yarn. Before you begin, dip the yarn in water to be sure that it hasn't been treated to resist water absorption. I made that mistake once and those wicks wouldn't suck up any

water. If the yarn floats, try a different yarn until you find one that readily absorbs water. For a small pot of three inches or less, I simply lay the yarn across the bottom of the pot. If using a larger pot, I draw the yarn back down through another hole making two wicks for that pot. Some people pull the yarn all the way up to the top of the soil, but the soil stays too wet in my conditions if I do that. No matter which method you use, be sure that the yarn comes into direct contact with the soil so that water can be absorbed properly.

A loose soil mixture such as equal parts perlite, vermiculite, and ProMix HP is required for wick watering. Top water the plants after potting so the soil will settle around the roots. Pots can be placed on individual wick containers such as margarine containers with a hole cut into the lid for the wick to go through or use large trays with "egg crating" set on top so you can place a number of plants on one tray. Keep fertilizer solution in the trays at all times. Use no more than 1/4 teaspoon per gallon, remembering that "less is more" and don't overdo the fertilizer. If you encounter any salt buildup, simply leach the affected plants with clear water.

The only down side to wick watering that I've encountered is that it is easier to spread pests and diseases on a community wick-watering tray. Religiously quarantining of all new acquisitions virtually alleviates this problem.

If you haven't tried wick watering, select a few plants and experiment. You may find that you're producing even more award winners than ever before!

From *The Dixie News*, publication of the Dixie AVS

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## Tight Centers

by Cheryl Salatino

Tight centers is a condition that persists when the plant receives too much light. The crown will bunch or "tighten" up. This is a problem many growers experience during the summer months. Somehow a plant knows the season, no matter where it is grown. If your plant stand is close to a window or you grow on a window sill, your plants are very aware of the additional light exposure that the season changes bring. Since the summer sun is much stronger than other times of the year, you must be very careful when growing close to a light source. Your plants can easily become over-exposed or sunburned. It is overexposure that causes the culture change, resulting in a tight center.

While additional light is one cause of tight centers, another can be over fertilization. Hot summers slow plant growth down considerably. The plant requires less fertilizer during

this season. You may want to consider cutting back on your fertilizer program. Try reducing the amount of fertilizer applied during the heat of the summer and monitor your results. I am not suggesting that you cut out your fertilizer program completely. Eliminating all fertilizers can significantly change the growing culture and may visibly alter the appearance of the plant, even the development of a smaller row of foliage.

Too much light for some of your varieties can be a culprit in developing tight centers, no matter what time of year. Monitor individual varieties to make the best decisions on how much light exposure is needed for consistent performance.

From *"Ye Bay Stater"* publication of the Bay State AVS

# NOT SO GREEN AND GROWING

by Georgene Albrecht

The Pittsburgh Violet and Gesneriad Society is ten years old, and we are growing just as fast as a ten-year old. We want to especially thank Anne Tinari for helping establish our chapter. She continues to support us and our exhibit. Here are some of the changes we have made in the last two years. Our membership has climbed from 15 to 35 in just one year. We have two ladies who are great at publicity and both major newspapers have published articles about our exhibit. Seventy people signed our guest book. We mailed our monthly flyer to all of them. Each month, we continue to attract new people. We keep the meetings packed full of information and fun.

We also have a lady who is a dynamo at creating a monthly flyer and new policies geared toward the newcomers. She has written a handbook on growing African violets that is given to each new member and sold to the public at the exhibit.

Our number one challenge was to gain new members and keep the current ones. This is not an easy task because the advanced growers are easily bored with information that a new grower needs; yet, the advanced growers need to learn about "show" growing. The first thing we did was to dispense with all but the barest of business. We, the officers and any member who wishes to attend, meet on another evening to conduct regular business. This clears most of the time at the regular meeting. Our meetings are held in a library that must close by 9:00 PM, so we make every moment count.

Our monthly newsletter is mailed two weeks before the meeting so that we can prepare. Our editor and her husband have started a Beginner's Forum as the first part of the meeting. Here, anyone can come with a problem plant, a show-and-tell plant, a list of questions, or information in general. There is usually a subject discussed at this forum, too. This lasts for thirty to forty minutes before the regular meeting.

Next, a horticultural subject is presented by one of the advanced growers. This is followed by several moments of discussion. We break for refreshments and donated cuttings are raffled at a very reasonable cost.

The main program, usually the longest, dwells on grow-

ing show plants, gesneriads, artistic design, trailers, etc. A short business meeting may follow this program. Time keeping is vital. Hand-outs are almost required and have become "works of art". I am so proud of our members. Our meeting is finished and we are on our way home by 9:00 PM.

We had a great exhibit in this same library. We are given coverage in their monthly newsletter and have gained several members from this. Publicity is absolutely essential if your club is to grow. I have noticed a new trend as I speak to many garden clubs. They have invited mothers to join and bring their children, taking turns watching them while participating in the meetings.

Even if you have only a few members, have an exhibit somewhere. Perhaps a senior center has a space you could use. Set up a small display in a library and talk to those who walk by. People are drawn to plants, especially in September and October when we are usually more leisurely. Always have visitors sign a guest book. Hand out sheets of colored paper with the time and location of your next meeting. If you have an educational table in your exhibit, have a person "man" or "woman" it all the times. Have a constant workshop area and have members mingle with the public. The week before the exhibit, place a nice plant near an entrance, store, or garden center. Attach a small notice on or below the plant that advertises the exhibit. If it is a dark-blooming plant, add a brightly colored bow to it or anything to attract the eye of a passerby.

Things have been relatively easy for the officers. We have two sets right now because we belong to both AVSA and AGGS. Most gesneriads require the same cultural information as the African violet. Our exhibit contained equal amounts of each.

It is a great idea to have a social committee. This person keeps tabs on the well-being of the membership and may have to sooth some ruffled feathers occasionally. I guess the entire gist of this article is to show people that we CARE about the plants and those who grow them. In this day and age, we must not only entice membership, we must provide education that is fun and interesting. Smile a lot. The enjoyment of plants is contagious.



# 2001 AVSA National Show

## Best African Violet in Show

Optimara New Mexico

Won by: **Tony Hulleman**, Burlington, ON Canada

## Second Best African Violet in Show

Peppermint Girl

Won by: **Dolores Gibbs**, San Marcos, TX

## Third Best African Violet in Show

Chanticleer

Won by: **Tony Hulleman**, Burlington, ON Canada

## Best AVSA Collection (Standard/Species)

Aca's Red Ember

Skagit Rascal

B-Man's Moncibello

Won by: **Tony Hulleman**, Burlington, ON Canada

## Best AVSA Collection (Miniature/Semiminiature)

Ness' Mini Sota

Ness' Sno Fun

Sugar Bear Blues

Won by: **Kathy Lahti**, Annandale, MN

## Best Standard

Optimara New Mexico

Won by: **Tony Hulleman**, Burlington, ON Canada

## Best Semiminiature

Optimara Little Aztec

Won by: **Kathy Lahti**, Annandale, MN

## Best Miniature

Peppermint Girl

Won by: **Dolores Gibbs**, San Marcos, TX

## Best Trailer

Rob's Sticky Wicket

Won by: **Bob McCabe**, Ottawa, ON Canada

## Best Species

*Saintpaulia pendula*

Won by: **Barbara Pershing**, Cedar Falls, IA

## Best Vintage Violet

Chanticleer

Won by: **Tony Hulleman**, Burlington, ON, Canada

## Best Other Gesneriad

*Chirita linearifolia*

Won by: **Linda Neumann**, North Royalton, OH

## Best Design in Show

"Blame the Cow"

Won by: **Fran Russom**, St. Louis, MO

## Second Best Design in Show

"Meet at the Clock"

Won by: **Nancy Hayes**, Bloomfield, CT

## Third Best Design in Show

"Arlington Racetrack"

Won by: **Fran Russom**, St. Louis, MO

## Best Commercial Display Table

Won by: **Dr Ralph 'Rob' Robinson**, Naples, NY

## Second Best Commercial Display Table

Won by: **Deborah Sanders**, Rochester, NY

## Best African Violet in Show (Commercial Specimen)

Rob's Boogie Woogie

Won by: **Dr Ralph 'Rob' Robinson**, Naples, NY

## Best AVSA Standard Collection (Commercial)

Still Waters

Benediction

Pathfinder

Won by: **Kent Stork**, Fremont, NE

## Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection (Commercial)

Optimara Rose Quartz

Optimara Little Crystal

Optimara Little Amethyst

Won by: **Olive Ma Robinson**, Naples, NY

## Best New Cultivar (Commercial)

Aca's Summer Parfait

Won by: **John Brownlie**, Mississauga, ON Canada

## Second Best New Cultivar (Commercial)

Opera's II Straniero

Won by: **Olive Ma Robinson**, Naples, NY

## Third Best New Cultivar (Commercial)

Hot Summer Day

Won by: **Kent Stork**, Fremont, NE

## Horticulture Sweepstakes

61 blue ribbons

Won by: **Kathy Lahti**, Annandale, MN

## Design Sweepstakes

10 blue ribbons

Won by: **Fran Russom**, St. Louis, MO



# New Cultivars From Mutation

Among African violet growers the words “sport” and “mutant” (from the Latin mutants, changing) are synonymous. Both mean a sudden change or variation. The offspring shows a marked change from its parents (or parent in the case of vegetative reproduction of African violets), in some well-marked character, due to changes within the chromosomes or genes. Sometimes when an African violet leaf is rooted, a plant that is radically different appears among the plants that are true to the parent plant. This is a true sport or mutant.

In looking back on the history of the African violet, many of the important developments in evolving the beautiful African violets we have today were mutants. The first double (‘Duchess’), and the first white (‘White Lady’) were mutants. The perennial favorite, ‘Tommie Lou’, with its entirely new variegated foliage, appeared as a “different” plant on a rooted leaf of ‘White Pride,’ where all the other plantlets were green.

Mutations may occur naturally as in the case of ‘Tommie Lou’, or they may be induced. In order to develop new African violets, plants have been exposed to chemicals, radiation, and other techniques of plant engineering.

Some of the most interesting mutants are the chimeras where the mutation affects only a segment of the tissue and two or more genetically distinct segments or layers of tissue will grow next to each other. Some of the pinwheels, which can also be produced from seed through hybridization, are chimeras whose blossoms are characterized by a definite pattern of stripes. The stripes may occur on the sides of each petal or in the center. Some examples of early pinwheels are: ‘Valencia’, ‘Kiwi Dazzle’, and ‘Mauna Loa’.

Many of these plants do not propagate true from leaf cuttings but must be propagated by sucker or peduncle (main blossom stem) or meristem (shoot-tip; growing point) tissue culture.

No one can predict the future of any new cultivar. Time and many generations of propagation are the real test. No matter how glamorous the description or name, the plant must prove itself in performance to assure itself a permanent place in African violet collections.



## Summerizing Your Plants

by Darryl Hoover

It's no secret that African violets are not particularly fond of the warm temperatures associated with summer. Blossoms diminish in count and size, and those that are produced just don't seem to last as long as they do when temperatures are cooler. Here are a few helpful hints that may make your plants a bit more comfortable.

**Ceiling Fans:** Most ceiling fans are two-directional. That is, they can either draw air from below and circulate it upward; or, they can draw air from above and circulate it downward. During warm temperatures, switching your ceiling fans to draw air from below (where the cooler air exists) will keep your plants more comfortable.

**Morning Misting:** When it gets particularly warm, a morning and a mid-afternoon misting will keep the surface temperature of the leaves cooler which will help prevent heat related damage.

**Adjust/Reduce Light Hours:** There's no law against running your lights early in the morning and late in the evening. My timers are currently set to come on at 4:00 a.m. and shut off at 10:00 a.m. They come on again at 7:00 p.m. and shut off at 11:30 p.m. Some prefer to run their lights at night during the summer. I have tried this but prefer the “split day” schedule.

**Reduce Fertilizer:** The bacteria in soil responsible for breaking down fertilizers into usable forms are much more active (and efficient) during warm temperatures. Therefore, it is wise to monitor your fertilizing program carefully in the summer to ensure you're not over fertilizing.

Do keep a watchful eye out for powdery mildew and thrips. Summer daytime/nighttime temperatures fluctuate considerably which encourages mildew to grow. Also, our homes are left more “open” in the summer which is a “welcome mat” for thrips.

From “*Blossoms*”, publication of the Seattle AVS

# 2001 AVSA Awards

## **Hudson Award for Affiliate Leadership**

**To: Byron Borck  
Santa Rosa, California**

Byron Borck has been a member of the Fancy Bloomers African violet Society since 1989. He has held all offices including having been president for seven years. Byron has set up a Ways and Means Committee to supply affiliate members with growing supplies at an economical price, along with conducting a Fellowship forum preceding meetings to help new members with problems they may have encountered. He even makes house calls for those who need extra help. When the club had cultural problems two years ago, Byron figured out that the problem was in the soil the club had purchased. He then developed his own mix for the members to use.

The Fancy Bloomers AVS has had four judged shows and Byron has been show chairman for all of them. He has helped organize clinics and plant sales and has grown large amounts of plants for the sales.

Mr. Borck is an avid participant in local county fairs, setting up African violet displays, securing judges for the shows, educating the public and exhibiting.

Byron is a hybridizer and has developed the Sanoma series of African violets. He also likes to travel in the surrounding areas, giving programs to gardens clubs and other African violet clubs.

Byron has been a member of the Northern California Council of AV Societies for eleven years, having served as its vice president. He has also been a member of AVSA Judges Council of Northern California for five years and has served as the society's vice president.

On a national level, he is a life member of AVSA and an Advanced judge. He served as the Convention Vice Chairman for the 1998 Sacramento Convention. For all of his accomplishments, AVSA presents the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership to Byron Borck.

## **Tinari Award**

**To: African Violet Society of Minnesota  
Annandale, Minnesota**

This year the Tinari Award for the most new memberships is presented to the African Violet Society of Minnesota. They have earned this award for enrolling 28 new members in the African Violet Society of America. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

## **Honorary One Year Membership Award**

**To: Shannon Ahlman  
Grand Island, Nebraska**

The African Violet Society of America presents an Honorary One-Year Membership Award to Shannon Ahlman for serving as the Omaha Convention Show Chairman in 2000.

Shannon is a member of the Commercial Activities Committee, the Commercial Sales and Exhibits Committee and is a Director. He is also a commercial member of AVSA. Locally, Shannon is a charter member, President of the Grand Island African Violet Society, and is president of the Lincoln African Violet Society.

## **Honorary One Year Membership Award**

**To: Joyce Stork  
Fremont, Nebraska**

An Honorary One-Year Membership Award is presented to Joyce Stork for serving as the Omaha Convention Chairman in 2000.

Joyce has been a member of AVSA since 1975 and a commercial member for almost as long. She has been a judge for over twenty years. Joyce served as Convention Show Chairman for the 1989 Kansas City Convention and a director from 1990 to 1993. She and her husband, Kent, received the Bronze Medal Award in 1989 and write the column "For Beginners" for the African Violet Magazine.

Locally, Mrs. Stork is a charter member and Past President of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council and is a member of the Omaha African Violet Society and the Lincoln African Violet Society.



## Distinguished Service Award

To: Nancy Hayes  
Bloomfield, Connecticut

Nancy Hayes has been a member of AVSA for thirty six years, twenty of those years as a life member. During that time, she has served on the Salary Committee, Finance Committee, Future Directions Committee, Publications Committee, and the Library Committee for fourteen years. She has been a member of the Building Fund Committee since 1998, but also served as a member of the Committee at its inception in the early 1980's. Nancy has also served on the Convention Committee for the past twenty years. For the past ten years, she has served as Master of Ceremonies for the social hour and slide presentation.

Nancy has received a One-Year Honorary Membership and a Continuing Service Award from AVSA. She was the Question Box Columnist for the African Violet Magazine for nine years. Mrs. Hayes also served AVSA as a Director and as Treasurer for five years. She has been a Judge for thirty years and is currently a Master Judge. Nancy is also a Consultant to the judges at AVSA Convention Shows. She is a Judge's Teacher.

Mrs. Hayes is currently a member of and has held offices in the Windsor AVS and Nutmeg State AVS. She is also a member of the New York State AVS, Bay State AVS, MidAtlantic AVS, and AGGS.

Nancy and her husband, John have been married for thirty nine years. They have four children and four grandchildren. She is a retired registered nurse of thirty nine years.

For all of her time, effort and accomplishments, AVSA is proud to present to Nancy Hayes the Distinguished Service Award.

## Honorary Life Membership Award

To: Bill Foster  
Mesquite, Texas

An Honorary Life Membership Award is presented to Bill Foster. He is a master judge, a teacher, and a life member of AVSA. He served as Affiliate Chairman from 1987-1990 when he became AVSA's Shows and Judges Committee Chairman, which he still chairs. Bill also served as Convention Chairman in 1988 for the Dallas Convention. Mr. Foster has also served on AVSA's Executive Committee as First, Second and Third Vice President.

Locally, Bill is a member and Past President of the First Nighter African Violet Society of Dallas, a Past President of the First African Violet Society of Dallas, a charter member and Past President of North Texas African Violet Judges council, a member and Past President of the Lone Star African Violet Council and an honorary member of Alpha African Violet Society of Dallas.

For all the time and effort he has given to AVSA and for serving as this Organization's President, we present to Bill Foster this Honorary Life Membership Award.

## Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck  
17235 N. 106th Avenue  
Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

### Donations received from February 1, 2001 - March 31, 2001

The Gateway AV Club, St. Louis, MO . . . \$185.97 <i>Our club disbanded and we elected to send our remaining funds for BERF research</i>	Tristate AV Council, Bordentown, NJ . . . . \$25.00	Andrea Pirone, Poulsbo, WA . . . . . \$5.00
Carlsbad AVS, Fallbrook CA . . . . . 10.00 <i>In memory of Dorothee Schindler</i>	Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council, Hillsboro, MO . . . . . 10.00	Long Island AVS, Hempstead, NY . . . . . 25.00
June O'Neill, Dania, FL . . . . . 15.00 <i>In memory of Gladys Souque</i>	Grace Ferry, Transfer, PA . . . . . 5.00	The Violet Patch of South Florida, Ft. Lauderdale, FL . . . . . 25.00
Vancouver AV & Gesneriad Society, New Westminster, BC . . . . . 50.00	Doris Schenck, Beloit, WI . . . . . 10.00	<i>In memory of Jeanne Fast</i>
Julia Woessner, Charleston, SC . . . . . 5.00	Lois Szostak, Garden City, NY . . . . . 5.00	Lynn Wallach, Westport, CT . . . . . 10.00
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Katherine Elliott, Molalla, OR . . . . . 10.00	Janice & Joseph Bruns, Hanover Park, IL . . 10.00	Roseline Fujimori, Honolulu, HI . . . . . 10.00
Mary R. Parker, Sandy, OR . . . . . 5.00	Cynthia Forbes De Correa, Panama . . . . . 5.00	First Goldsboro AVS, Goldsboro, NC . . . . . 25.00
Edward Hill, Esko, MN . . . . . 5.00	Denise Sarrazin, Rawdon, Canada . . . . . 5.00	Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA . . . . . 2.00
Nancy Johnston, Bakersfield, CA . . . . . 10.00	Kay C. Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD . . . . . 10.00	Susan Rutkowski, Livonia, MI . . . . . 10.00
Anita E. Rudolph, Garden City, NY . . . . . 5.00	Marilyn Heinrich, East Northport, NY . . . . 20.00	Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL . . . . . 5.00
Elena Martinez, Miami, FL . . . . . 10.00 <i>In memory of Betty Nipp</i>	AVS of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA . . . . 25.00	Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD . . . . . 10.00
F. Eleanor Mattaliano, Tinton Falls, NJ . . . . 10.00	<i>In Memory of Tom Seller and Gladys Souque</i>	Jean M. Rogers, New Bedford, MA . . . . . 3.00
Onalee H. McEwen, Houston, TX . . . . . 5.00	Joan McKerr, Newport, NY . . . . . 10.00	Ellen Brooke, Boyertown, PA . . . . . 10.00
Arnold W. Mueller, Vista, CA . . . . . 50.00	Karen Plourde, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 100.00	Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI . . . . . 10.00
Donalda Ferguson, Montgomery, AL . . . . . 5.00	Mrs. Albert W Koch, Clayton, MO . . . . . 5.00	Debby Chastain, Drasco, AR . . . . . 5.00
Leon Vogel, Murrieta, CA . . . . . 5.00	Frank Barthel, Syracuse, NY . . . . . 5.00	Tom W. Clark, Charlotte, NC . . . . . 25.00
Elena Martinez, Miami, FL . . . . . 10.00	Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD . . . . . 5.00	Barbara H. Werness, Coon Rapids, MN . . . 10.00
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Peg Phythyon, Wetumpka, AL . . . . . 5.00	Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN . . . . . 10.00	Springfield Chapter of AVS, Springfield, MO 10.00
	Cecelia Seidel, Hayward, CA . . . . . 5.00	Alfred Scott Lea, Waco, TX . . . . . 20.00
	Bergen County AVS, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ . . . . . 20.00	Carol Allegretti, Woodstock, IL . . . . . 20.00
	<i>In memory of Jean Terwilliger</i>	Geneva Stagg, Germantown, TN . . . . . 6.00
	Amethyst AVC, Chesterfield, MO . . . . . 10.00	

# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

July Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sun. 10:13 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
2 Mon.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
3 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
4 Wed. 7:21 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
5 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd 10:04 am
6 Fri. 6:35 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
7 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
8 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
9 Mon. 7:05 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
10 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
11 Wed. 7:36 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
12 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
13 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th 1:45 pm
14 Sat. 6:13 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
15 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	4th
16 Mon. 1:26 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
17 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
18 Wed. 4:56 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
19 Thu.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
20 Fri. 5:43 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st 2:44 pm
21 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
22 Sun. 5:29 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
23 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
24 Tue. 6:08 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
25 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
26 Thu. 9:17 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
27 Fri.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd 5:08 am
28 Sat.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
29 Sun. 3:44 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
30 Mon.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
31 Tue. 1:16 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd

August Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Wed.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
2 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
3 Fri. 12:55 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
4 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd 12:56 am
5 Sun. 1:30 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
6 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
7 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
8 Wed. 2:05 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
9 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
10 Fri. 1:23 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
11 Sat.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
12 Sun. 9:59 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th 2:53 am
13 Mon.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
14 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
15 Wed. 2:55 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
16 Thu.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
17 Fri. 4:25 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
18 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st 9:55 pm
19 Sun. 3:53 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
20 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
21 Tue. 3:19 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
22 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
23 Thu. 4:50 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
24 Fri.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
25 Sat. 9:59 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd 2:55 pm
26 Sun.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
27 Mon. 7:02 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
28 Tue.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
29 Wed.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
30 Thu. 6:47 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
31 Fri.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 2001 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 1-56718-953-9



# What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

## Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

## From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

## A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

## The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

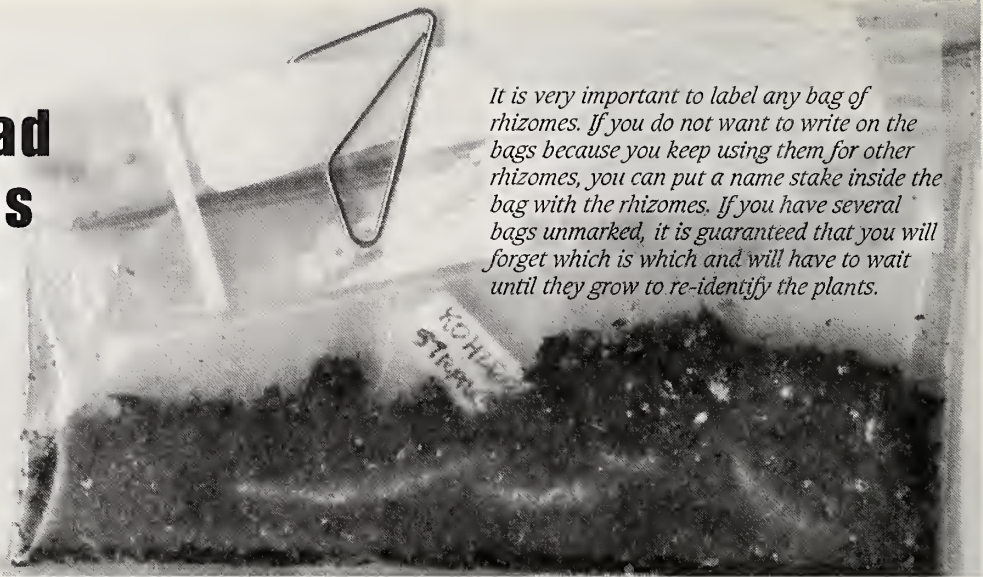
The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



# Storing Gesneriad Rhizomes

by John Beaulieu



*It is very important to label any bag of rhizomes. If you do not want to write on the bags because you keep using them for other rhizomes, you can put a name stake inside the bag with the rhizomes. If you have several bags unmarked, it is guaranteed that you will forget which is which and will have to wait until they grow to re-identify the plants.*

With the popularity of the rhizomatous gesneriads on the rise, the subject of "how to store rhizomes" is one that comes up a lot. The most popular rhizomatous gesneriads are *Achimenes*, eucodonnias, diastemas, smithianthas, (true) Gloxinias and kohlerias. There are, of course, the many new intergeneric hybrids created from inter-crossing these various genera.

'Rhizome' is a general term used for many forms of underground (or at the surface) stem. Plants that we usually associate with rhizomes might be iris, some begonias, and some *Streptocarpus*. The gesneriads mentioned in the first paragraph are scaly rhizomatous genera of the new world. For these plants, the scaly rhizome is actually an underground stem with the leaves reduced to small fleshy scales.

Some plants will produce abundant rhizomes while they are actively growing. Most of these will be above the soil line, where they are known as aerial propagules. Many of the true gloxinias are well-known for this trait. Most of the rhizomatous plants produce the bulk of their rhizomes from mature plants after the main blooming period is over or when the mature plant has been stressed by excessive drying.

Although the plant's foliage is genetically programmed to have a specific life span, in many cases you can take healthy cuttings, and root them to keep a variety going. You can also set seed on species or create hybrids, but usually we count on those rhizomes to let us maintain a clone. So how do we collect and store them?



I have known some hobbyists who do nothing. After the growing season (usually in the fall) the pot is allowed to dry out, the old foliage is removed, and the pot is stored in a cool, dark spot until spring when water is once again applied. New sprouts appear, and you are ready to start the cycle all over again.



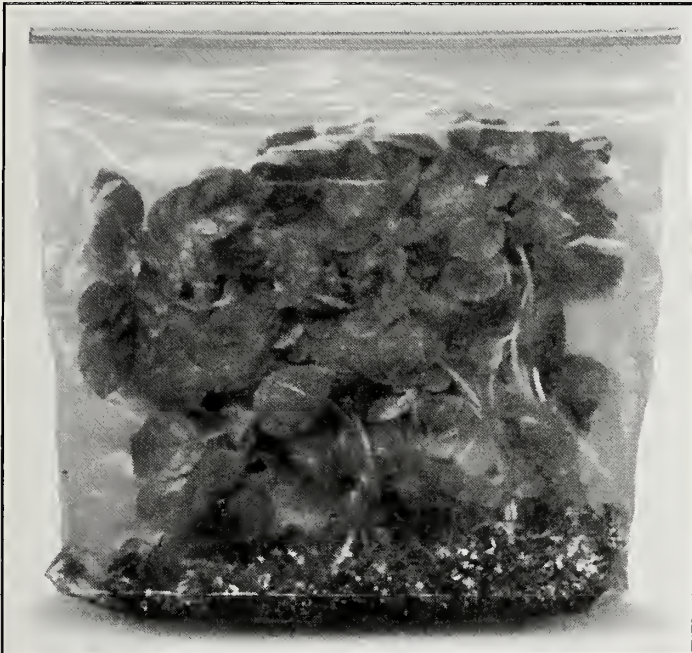
*Although now living in Calgary, Alberta, Murna Kosowon was well-known for her wonderful baskets of achimenes grown here in Barrie, Ontario. Murna grew the plants in a sheltered patio area. She had success with leaving the dormant pots, rhizomes and all stored in the basement. The baskets produced beautiful patio plants year after year. Eventually Murna would repot to divide up the massive amount of rhizomes that would accumulate.*

I prefer to harvest the rhizomes and store them for the dormant period. This allows me to see how many I have and keep tabs on how they are doing. There are many methods of storing rhizomes; the main goal being not to let them get too dry, as they could shrivel away! Whether you keep them in sphagnum moss, soil-less mix, or pure vermiculite, the real challenge is getting the moisture just right. Too wet, and they could rot!

This is why the zip-lock bags are so good for this. You can see any excess moisture buildup and simply open the bag until the levels are corrected. The bags can be hung near the plant stands, but not taking up valuable shelf space. The clear bags allow you to see when the rhizomes are starting to sprout so you can then pot them up. If you don't get to them

right away, they are receiving enough light so the sprouts can grow in the bag for a while.

The various genera of rhizomatous gesneriads have varying dormancy times, and they are more likely to start sprouting sooner if they are stored in clear bags or contain-



*This is far too long to let sprouting rhizomes go before removing them from the bag and potting them up!*

ers that are in good light. If you want to delay sprouting until a designated time, it is best to store the rhizomes in the dark. Even if they are in bags, you can put them inside a drawer or box.

The racks of little plastic drawers normally used for screws or office supplies have been recommended as storage compartments for rhizomes. The drawers would be filled with moist vermiculite or sphagnum. However, I tried this, and found that they dried out far too fast. Other containers for storage that have worked well are some of the better plastic containers that small amounts of screws or nails come in. They snap shut and hang on a peg board out of the way. The plastic film containers (35 mm film) are good in that they seal well and prevent drying out. Some are clear so you can see what's happening and others are black for when you want to prolong the dormancy.

Kohlerias seem to have the shortest dormancy, if in fact any. My *Kohleria* that are on wicking systems usually grow year-round under lights. They still will produce rhizomes, but these tend to sprout almost immediately so they are rarely stored.

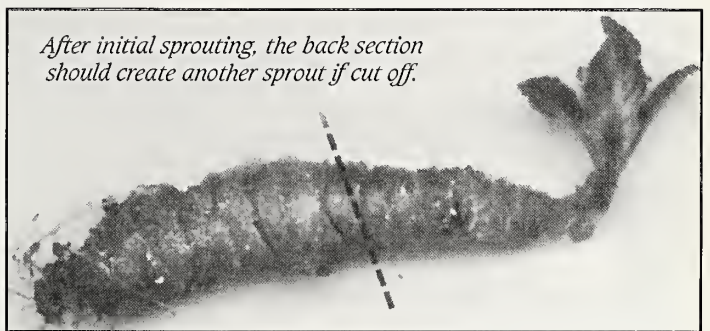
If you are planting rhizomes that have not yet sprouted, I would place them under about 1 inch of potting mix and keep it barely moist until they show signs of growth breaking the surface. If rhizomes are placed too close to the surface, this will produce a plant that is shallow-rooted and poorly anchored. *Gloxinia* rhizomes have been reported to sprout almost immediately if repotted vertically, with the

growing tip just at the surface. In these cases we are talking about the 'fat, subterranean grub-looking rhizomes' (as Dan Tomso calls them) collected from mature plants, not the stringy aerial propagules.

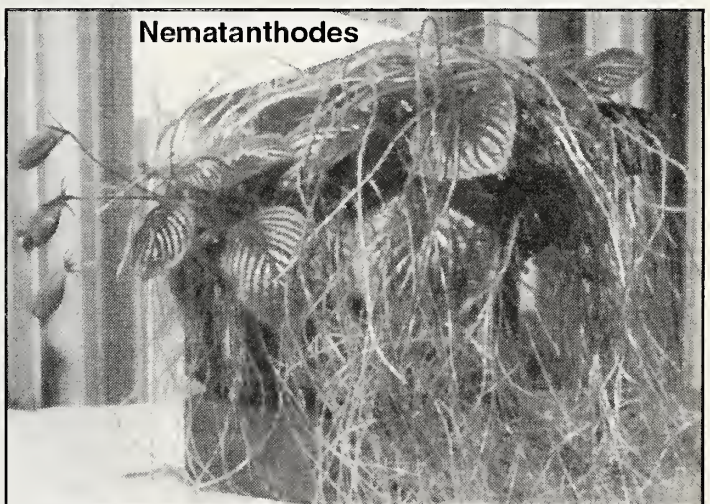
The spreading, above-ground propagules are often best left on the plant until a sprout is formed at the end, in which case it can then be potted up.

How many rhizomes should you expect to find in a pot of a mature plant that has gone dormant? That can vary greatly from a few to several dozen, depending on many factors. This past summer, I set up six baskets of different *Achimenes*, starting with six rhizomes in each basket. After the plants had gone dormant in the fall, each basket had about twenty four rhizomes in it. That is a good increase, and I can imagine what full baskets I will have next year!

If you don't have several rhizomes of a plant, a large, healthy rhizome could be broken into three or four pieces. Each section should sprout into a plant. If you don't want to do that, wait until a rhizome is well sprouted, then break it in two. The back section should sprout, but you know for sure that you have the original sprout.



*After initial sprouting, the back section should create another sprout if cut off.*



*This *Gloxinia nematanthodes* explodes the theory that rhizomatous gesneriads will not produce rhizomes unless they receive drying periods. This plant seen at a Toronto show was grown in a standard hydroponic pot where moisture was constant. The judges left a note at this one saying ... "The plant needed a shave"!*

*From "African violet and Gesneriad News"*

# Showcase

## *Hot Summer Day*

*3rd Best New Cultivar*

*2001 AVSA National Show*

*Hybridized & Exhibited by:*

*Kent Stork*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



*Ges-5 'Amy'*  
*Exhibited by: Ruth Bann*

*Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky*





*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Playful Spectrum*

*Exhibited & Hybridized by:  
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses*

# Could Chemicals be a Problem?

by George R. Stewart • Universal City, Texas

I have been an AVSA member for little more than a year. The AVSA magazine is devoured within hours of its arrival in our home. My interest in violets goes back to the early 70's, and in recent years I have somewhere near forty plants at all times. My market for plants is donation to money-raising sales, gifts, hostess gifts, etc. I don't sell them.

Several years ago, during a visit to Pennsylvania, I noticed that my sister-in-law had really gotten into violet cultivation. She gave me a several years' back issues of the AVM. My wife then joined AVSA, subscribed to the magazine, and bought my membership in the Society. My interest was heavily weighted toward "beginners", "how to start", and other topics for new violet growers.

Later, my sister-in-law mentioned that a virus or bug had killed most of her plants. She was trying to disinfect all her pots and equipment with bleach.

One day I passed by my light shelf and a couple of plants shouted to me that they needed water/food. You know how that happens! I took the plants to the sink and grabbed a

half-gallon of my pre-mixed violet food, or so I thought!

As I poured liquid into the second pot, the smell of ammonia nearly floored me. I had the wrong half-gallon bottle and had watered two plants with ammonia! I immediately flushed the plants, trays, etc., but three days later, the crowns lifted out of watery stems and the plants died!

I called my sister-in-law and asked about her use of window cleaners and found that she freely used ammonia window cleaners around her violets. I shared my ammonia experience, and we both took precautions when using any chemicals of cleaners around our collections. Today we both have fine collections of healthy violets.

I have never seen this subject addressed in our magazine, but suggest that it is a valid consideration and may be the reason many people just "can't grow African violets."

I think it is a valid warning to all growers, particularly the beginners. Take care when using any chemicals or cleaning products near your plants.

## AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons

38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

### CONTRIBUTIONS 1 FEBRUARY - 31 MARCH 2001

Reno/Sparks AVS, Sparks, NV . . . . . \$20.00	Smith's Country Cottage AV's, Spencerport, NY . . . \$25.00	Chester Landis, Ottawa Lake, MI . . . . . \$10.00
<i>Apply to the California Microfilm Project Fund.</i>	Karen Plourde, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA . . . . . 100.00	Carole Domnitz, Bellmore, NY . . . . . 10.00
Old Dominion AVS of Northern Virginia . . . . . 25.00	<i>Apply toward the California Microfilm Project Fund.</i>	Carolyn Nixon, Tolono, IL . . . . . 20.00
First AVS Wichita Falls, TX. . . . . 10.00	Nancy Yano, Honolulu, HI . . . . . 10.00	Jean Rogers, New Bedford, MA . . . . . 3.00
<i>In memory of Mary Burton, mother of</i>	Peggy Eaton, Brighton, MA . . . . . 10.00	Union County Chapter AVSA, Scotch Plains, NJ . . 65.00
<i>Norma J. Bolin. Apply toward the</i>	Capital City AVS, Cameron Park, CA . . . . . 25.00	<i>In fond memory of Maxine Ott, wife of Walther Ott.</i>
<i>California Microfilm Project.</i>	<i>Apply toward the California Microfilm Project Fund.</i>	<i>Apply to the California Microfilm Project Fund.</i>
First AVS of Wichita Falls, TX . . . . . 10.00	Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD . . . . . 5.00	Ellen Brooks, Boyertown, PA . . . . . 10.00
<i>In memory of Mr. Harold Blow, husband of Udell</i>	Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE . . . . . 5.00	Joan Wilson, Theresa, WI . . . . . 10.00
<i>Blow. Apply to the California Microfilm Project.</i>	Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN . . . . . 10.00	Debby Chastain, Drasco, AR . . . . . 5.00
Mary Parker, Sandy, OR . . . . . 5.00	Janet Robertson, Seal Beach, CA . . . . . 17.00	Long Island AVS, Long Island, NY . . . . . 20.00
Lynda Vaillancourt, Durango, CO . . . . . 10.00	<i>Apply toward the California Microfilm Project Fund.</i>	Garden State AVC, Trenton, NJ . . . . . 25.00
Julia Woessner, Charleston, SC . . . . . 5.00	Amethyst AVC, Chesterfield, MO . . . . . 10.00	<i>In lieu of speaker's fee for Janet Riemer, Union</i>
Ralph Mancusi, Orange Park, FL . . . . . 3.00	Cecelia Seidel, Hayward, CA . . . . . 5.00	<i>County AVS. Apply to California Microfilm Project.</i>
Arnold W. Mueller, Vista, CA . . . . . 50.00	<i>Apply toward the California Microfilm Project Fund.</i>	Camilla Ingle, Simpsonville, SC . . . . . 1.25
<i>Apply toward the California Microfilm Project.</i>	Joe & Janice Bruns, Hanover Park, IL . . . . . 10.00	Carol Allegretti, Woodstock, IL . . . . . 20.00
Anita Rudolph, Garden City, NY . . . . . 5.00	Phoebe Hahn, Berkeley Heights, NJ . . . . . 50.00	Anna Noe, Winthrop, MA . . . . . 5.00
Charlotte Wolfe, Ann Arbor, MI . . . . . 25.00	Lois Szostak, Garden City, NY . . . . . 5.00	Dorothy Lewis, Morgantown, IN . . . . . 1.00
Onalee McEwen, Houston, TX . . . . . 5.00	Joan McKerr, Northport, NY . . . . . 10.00	Central Jersey AVS, Matawan, NJ . . . . . 45.00
Eleanor Mattaliano, Tinton Falls, NJ . . . . . 10.00	Kay Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD . . . . . 10.00	<i>In lieu of judges travel expenses. Bob Kurzynski,</i>
Helen Handwerk, Lakewood, CO . . . . . 10.00	Cynthia Forbes De Corres, Republic of Panama . . . 5.00	<i>Morris County AVC, Fred Hill, Garden State AVC,</i>
AVS of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN. . . . . 15.00	TriState AV Council, Morristown, NJ . . . . . 25.00	<i>Janet Riemer, Union County AVS, Laurel Brown</i>
<i>In fond memory of Opal Hunter.</i>	<i>Apply toward the California Microfilm Project Fund.</i>	<i>and Susan Arnao, Burlington County AVC,</i>
Lois Buschke, Morris Plains, NJ . . . . . 10.00	Copper City AVS, Rome, NY. . . . . 20.00	<i>Laura Shannon, AVS Philadelphia, Frank Senna,</i>
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council . . . . . 15.00	<i>In fond memory of Annabelle Hart - A long time</i>	<i>Bergen County AVS, Bill &amp; Kay Lyons, Lower Bucks</i>
Hans & Everdina Inpijn, Laguna Woods, CA . . . . 20.00	<i>member of Copper City AVS.</i>	<i>AVS. Apply to Calif. Microfilm Project.</i>
<i>In fond memory of Dorothee Schindler.</i>	Tinari Greenhouses, Huntingdon Valley, PA. . . . . 25.00	AVS Of Dayton, Dayton, OH . . . . . 25.00
<i>Charter member of Carlsbad AVS. Apply to the</i>	<i>Apply to the California Microfilm Project Fund.</i>	Barbara Werness, Coon Rapids, MN . . . . . 10.00
<i>Microfilm Project.</i>	Eleanor Bier, Janesville, WI . . . . . 1.25	Ronald H. Whitchurch, Clearwater, FL . . . . . 100.00
Hans & Everdina Inpijn, Laguna Woods, CA . . . . 20.00	Nelly Levine, Arvada, CO . . . . . 5.00	<i>In loving memory of Julianne Canfield. Apply to</i>
<i>In fond memory of Mr. Leonard King, husband of</i>	Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA . . . . . 4.00	<i>California Microfilm Project Fund.</i>
<i>Frances King. Apply toward the Microfilm Project.</i>	Susan Rutkowski, Livonia, MI. . . . . 10.00	
Jeanne Maier, Lynbrook, NY . . . . . 5.00	Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL . . . . . 5.00	
Albert Koch, Clayton, MO . . . . . 5.00	Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD . . . . . 10.00	
Robert Harp, Wylie, TX. . . . . 1.00	Richard Nicholas, Denton, TX . . . . . 10.00	
		<b>Total: . . . . . \$1,096.50</b>

# AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Floyd Lawson  
1100 Huntingdon Dr. #21  
Arcadia, CA 91007

## 1986

Chris Leppard #4636 (Maas)  
Dominique #4335 (Fredette)  
Fisher's Leone #4540 (E. Fisher)  
Lady Baltimore #4337 (Fredette)  
Love Bug #4513 (Lyon)  
Marie Knoblock #4042 (Sisk)  
Optimara® Nevada #6964 (Holtkamp)  
Optimara® New Mexico #6583 (Holtkamp)  
Snuggles #5018 (Lyon)  
Spanish Moss #4045 (Sisk)

## 1987

Fisherman's Paradise #4843 (Sisk)  
Granger's Desert Dawn #4050 (Eyerdom)  
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)  
Happy Cricket #5726 (Hollada)  
Interlude #4935 (Eyerdom)  
Ms. Pretty #5225 (Anderson)  
Winnergreen #4693 (Pittman)

## 1988

Camelot Pink #4293 (H. Eyerdom)  
Cactus Rose #4147 (Fredette)  
Crystallaire #4295 (H. Eyerdom)  
Glittersweet #4431 (Fredette)  
Granger's Valencia #4051 (Eyerdom)  
Kingwood Red #4308 (H. Eyerdom)  
Summer Lightning #5023 (Lyon)  
Trail Along n/r (Lyon)  
Vibrant Val #3918 (Lyon)

## 1989

Anna Kreeck #5784 (Trent)  
Big Bird #5155 (Fredette)  
Christmas Candy-O #5032 (Groeneman)  
Columbia #5450 (Eyerdom)  
Dumplin' #3931 (Swift)  
Fairy Queen n/r (Fisher)  
Kiwi Dazzler #5888 (Snell)  
Mauna Loa #5336 (Eyerdom)  
Optimara® Alabama #6542 (Holtkamp)  
Splendiferous #5813 (Whitaker)  
Wrangler's Dixie Celebration #4490 (Smith)

## 1990

Boca Grande #5112 (S. Williams)  
Emilie Savage #5445 (Eyerdom)  
Frances Young #5890 (Pittman)  
Hart's Snow White #5590 (A. Hart)  
Melodie Kimi #8100 (Sunnyside/Levy)  
Ming Blue #5823 (Eyerdom)  
Pay Dirt #4988 (P. Tracey)  
Wrangler's Jealous Heart #6225 (W. Smith)  
Wrangler's Pink Patches #6230 (W. Smith)

## 1991

Mickey Mouse n/r (Inpijn)  
Nortex's Snowfrill Haven #6045 (B. Johnson)  
Nortex's Snowkist Haven #6046 (B. Johnson)  
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)  
Precious Pink #6025 (Pittman)  
Snow Rose #5985 (Whitaker)

## 1992

Dancin' Trail #5565 (Sorano)  
Falling Snow n/r (Tracey)  
Fickle Flirt #6738 (Sorano)

## 1993

Little Pro #6637 (Pittman)

## 1994

Optimara® Rose Quartz #6969 (Holtkamp)

## 1995

There are no 1995 additions to the Honor Roll of African Violets

## 1996

Tomahawk #7269 (K. Stork)  
Irish Flirt #7577 (S. Sorano)

## 1997

Ode to Beauty #7677 (Cox/B. Johnson)  
Picasso #6924 (M. Tremblay)

## 1998

Ness' Crinkle Blue #8136 (D. Ness)  
International n/r (B. Johnson)

## 1999

Milky Way Trail #7469 (J. Stahl)  
Ness' Satin Rose #8144 (D. Ness)

## 2000

Powwow #7708 (K. Stork)  
Rob's Sticky Wicket #6467 (R. Robinson)

To see the Honor Roll listings from 1960 - 1998, refer to pages 26 & 27 of the May/June 2000 AVM

Send your votes for the List to

Floyd Lawson

1100 W. Huntington Drive, #21, Arcadia, CA 91007, or by email <floydll@earthlink.net>

*To be in the Honor Roll of African Violets, a variety must have appeared in the Best Varieties list for three consecutive years.*

*(Minor editorial changes have been made on some of the above cultivars for compliance with the current MVL)*

# Showcase

## *Honeysuckle Rose*

*Exhibited by: Carol Allegretti*

*Hybridized by: Munk/Dattalo*

*Standard Trailer*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Ness' Satin Rose*

*Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti*

*Hybridized by: D. Ness*

*Semiminiature*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



***Optimara  
California II***

*From Best Holtkamp Collection  
AVSA 2001 National Show  
Exhibited by: **Kathy Lahti**  
Hybridized by: **Holtkamp**  
Standard*



***Harbor Blue***

*Exhibited by: **Tony Hulleman**  
Hybridized by: **T. Weber**  
Large*

*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

# Annual Library Message



Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful!!! We had some really great new introduction slides at the Chicago convention. If you missed them, they will be available from the library in September (program 199L). Many thanks to the fine hybridizers who took the time to show us their wares: Pat Hancock, Dolores Harrington, Goeff & Aileen Smith, Daphne Snell, and Paul Sorano.

Slides of the beautiful Chicago show also will be available in September (program 200L)

The following is a list of programs available from the library.



Carolyn Burr

## RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF AVSA LIBRARY MATERIALS

Library materials are available for use by AVSA members and affiliates in good standing, subject to the following rules and regulations.

### REQUEST FOR MATERIALS

Send requests to the AVSA Office, 2375 North St. Beaumont, Texas 77702. If you do not have an AVSA order form please include in your request (1) Name of affiliate, (2) Name of person ordering and person's membership number, (3) Shipping address, (4) Name of slide program or packet. (5) Whether or not cassette (where available) is desired, (6) Date to be shown. Order forms are included in shipment for future use.

### SLIDE PROGRAMS - VIDEO TAPES

1. Make request for reservation three (3) months in advance of date desired, with information outlined above. Give first, second and third choices of slide programs for each reservation date.
  2. Slide programs and video tapes are shipped using a special shipping box. Please use the special box to return the programs to the AVSA office immediately after scheduled reserved date. Return by UPS or First Class Mail only. For First Class, we request that you insure the program for \$50.00. If you use UPS, the package is automatically insured for \$100.00. For members in other countries: please return programs postpaid by the safest and most expeditious postal means available.  
**A \$5.00 PER WEEK PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY PROGRAM NOT POSTMARKED WITHIN FOUR (4) DAYS AFTER SCHEDULED RESERVED DATE, UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.**
- Return programs to:  
AVSA OFFICE  
2375 NORTH STREET  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702
3. Special requests for two or more slide programs for the same date may be made and will be filled when possible, but such requests are not encouraged because of the great demand for slide programs and the limited number available.
  4. Cost of slide program with cassette is \$10.00 and cost of slide program without cassette is \$8.00. Only those slide programs in the descriptive list with a "(C)" after the titles have cassettes. Those programs may be reserved with or without the cassettes. Cost of video programs is \$10.00.

## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

### SECTION 1: CONVENTION SHOWS

Slide programs of outstanding exhibits at National Convention shows; especially entertaining for members not attending conventions.

- 163L** "THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRIT" (C) (80 Slides) Experience the best of the award-winning plants and designs displayed "The New England Way," Boston 1990.
- 166L** "VIOLETS IN THE GOLDEN STATE" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning plants and designs from the Santa Clara convention 1991.
- 167L** "A CENTURY OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) An exciting presentation of award-winning plants and designs from "Violet Heritage and Horizons," Columbus 1992.
- 169L** "MORE PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS" (C) (80 Slides) of award-winning exhibits at the 1993 National Convention Show.
- 171L** "A FESTIVAL OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the Denver National AVSA Show 1994.
- 175L** "ST. LOUIS BLUES AND OTHER COLORS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the 1995 St. Louis convention.
- 179L** "ATLANTA REVISITED! OUR 50TH" (C) (79 Slides) Many of the winning exhibits, both horticulture and design, enjoyed at the 50th Anniversary convention, Atlanta, GA 1996.
- 183L** "VIOLETS AT THE BEACH" (C) (78 Slides) Winning exhibits from the convention show 1997 at St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- 190L** "WE VISIT SACRAMENTO - 1998" (C) (80 Slides) Horticulture and designs presented by exhibitors in our convention show, April 1998 in California.
- 193L** "HOUSTON BEAUTIES - 1999" (C) (80 Slides) of the convention show 1999.
- 197L** "GO WILD IN OMAHA - 2000" (C) (80 Slides) Pictures of "wild" horticulture and design winners from the AVSA convention in Omaha, May, 2000.
- 200L** "CHICAGO SHOW BEAUTIES - 2001" Horticulture Design, and Commercial winners at the Convention Show in Chicago. (80 slides)

**NEW**



## SECTION II: NEW INTRODUCTIONS

A series of programs compiled from slides of new cultivars submitted by hybridizers and commercial members.

- 168L **"GEMS OF COLUMBUS"** (C) (80 Slides) A collection of slides depicting the best new introductions at the 1992 Columbus, Ohio convention.
- 170L **"LANCASTER LOVELIES"** (C) (80 Slides) The best 1993 introductions shown by Ray "Sundown" Pittman at the Lancaster Convention.
- 172L **"DENVER DEBUTANTS"** (C) (80 Slides) Selected outstanding 1994 introductions from various hybridizers. Presented by Kent Stork at the Denver Convention.
- 176L **"WE MET IN ST. LOUIS"** (C) (80 Slides) - Meet the 1995 new hybrids - slides submitted by various hybridizers and introduced at the St. Louis convention.
- 180L **"FIFTY YEARS AND GROWING"** (C) (80 Slides) Slides submitted by various hybridizers and shown in Atlanta, GA at the 50th Anniversary convention.
- 184L **"NEW VARIETIES ON PARADE"** (C) (71 Slides) Hybridizers share slides of their new varieties presented at 1997 Convention St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- 191L **"NEW CULTIVARS - 1998"** (C) (50 Slides) Slides of new plants from our hybridizers.
- 199L **"NEW INTRODUCTIONS - 2001"** Slides of new cultivars from our hybridizers (48 slides).

## SECTION III : AFRICAN VIOLET LIFE

A series of slide programs relative primarily to African violet culture and related subjects. Somewhat dated but with much helpful information for the novice grower.

- 140L **"MULTIPLYING SAINTPAULIAS"** (65 Slides) Basic program on African violet propagation including leaf cuttings, plant division, seed and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds.
- 147L **"THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT"** (77 Slides) A good, basic program identifying leaf types, blossom form and colors, and diseases that affect the foliage.
- 150L **"THE PITTMAN WAY OF GROWING VIOLETS"** (C) (84 Slides) A step-by-step visual program on growing and grooming miniature and semiminature African violets.
- 153L **"VIOLETS AND MORE VIOLETS"** (79 Slides) A basic lesson for beginners on setting leaves, separating baby plants from mother leaf and dividing multiple-crowned plant including suggestions on potting, repotting a large plant and a way to treat a necky plant.
- 151L **"THE SAINTPAULIA SPECIES"** (79 Slides) A comprehensive, educational, workshop-type program. Very thorough and somewhat technical. A depicted work by Neva Anderson.
- 161L **"POINTERS IN JUDGING"** (C) (74 Slides) A revised version of workshop program for judges and exhibitors. Emphasis on grooming of plants in preparation for showing.
- 182L **"TRAILERS - MAKING THEM DO WHAT I WANT THEM TO DO"** (C) (70 Slides) (1997) Bev Promersberger demonstrates how she grows trailers that make the "Winners Circle".
- 194L **"DESIGNING FOR SHOW"** (66 Slides) Program includes step-by-step instruction for construction of a terrarium followed by lovely examples of the different design types for exhibition.

## SECTION IV: GESNERIADS

Programs identifying African violet cousins, their care and propagation.

- 139L **"MEET THE FAMILY"** (C) (60 Slides) A vivid look at some of the other members of the gesneriad family, compiled and narrated by Margaret Waguespack. An informative program for those who want to broaden their growing horizons or for those who just want to "meet the family".
- 178L **"UNUSUAL GESNERIADS FOR THE LIGHT GARDEN"** (C) (54 Slides) A group of the smaller gesneriads suitable for the light stand.



## SECTION V: VIOLET PESTS AND DISEASES

Slide programs identifying pests and diseases and their impact on African violet cultivars.

- 132L **"AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS"** (C) (52 Slides) A short, succinct program by Dr. Charles L. Cole with vivid illustration of common African violet pests.
- 152L **"VIOLET TROUBLES"** (63 Slides) Pests, diseases, and results of poor culture exhibited in the program. An oldie, but good basic information.

## SECTION VI: SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- 187L **30TH AVSC CONVENTION - TORONTO 1997** Slides of the Canadian Show. (80 slides)
- 195L **"AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA CONVENTION & SHOW, TORONTO, CANADA", 1999 -** (80 Slides) of beautiful photography highlight this show.
- 198L **"AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA Convention & Show, Ottawa, 2001",** (87 Slides).

## VIDEO TAPES

- 173L **"AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE NEW GARDEN"** Ken Froboese talks violets - a visit with Ken in his greenhouse, Hill Country African Violets.
- 181L **"HUNGRY ATHLETES"** - 1997 Presentation at Atlanta convention by Dr. Charles Cole. 60 minutes of information for the serious grower.
- 185L **"GROWING BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS"** (28 minutes). Anna Jean Landgren demonstrates how she grows trailers. One of a series of presentations for TV by members of Illinois State AV Society.
- 186L **"TEACHING THE TRICKS"** (27 minutes) A second presentation of the cable TV productions - this one shows Jean Willey instructing new grower Tracy Bruns in the basics of African violet growing. Particularly good for novice growers.
- 188L **"RAGS TO RICHES"** - Another cable TV presentation in the series of House Plant How-tos. This is by Andrea Worell as she demonstrates how to groom or redo those African violets that need "help".
- 189L **"PROPAGATING YOUR POSIES"** - This video, also by Andrea Worell, shows how she starts African violets and some other gesneriads. Another of the House Plant How-tos series. Andrea has a new slant on an old idea. Very entertaining.
- 196L **"BASIC AFRICAN VIOLET CARE"** - 25 minute video by Don Geiss is a good introduction to growing African Violets.

## PACKETS

1. Packets are loaned for a period of one month, as available.
2. Requests for two or more packets will be filled whenever possible.
3. Packets must be returned postpaid by FIRST, THIRD, OR FOURTH CLASS MAIL.
4. Cost of each packet is \$3.00 and must be paid by check to AVSA at time of request.

## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PACKETS

- 155L **JUST FOR FUN PACKET:** "Violet Carol" Christmas skit in one act. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with a skit performed by your club members. This is an original skit written by Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE, and donated to the AVSA Library.
- 156L **NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE PACKET:** Anyone desiring to start a newsletter or magazine would find this packet helpful.
- 157L **PROGRAM-PLANNING PACKET:** Suggestion to help a program chairman, or committee, plan the programs for a club's activities.
- 158L **SHOW SCHEDULES PACKET:** Show schedules of African violet shows from different sections of the country. Excellent for new ideas and those clubs planning their first show.
- 159L **YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKET:** This packet contains yearbooks from various affiliate clubs. Especially recommended for clubs producing their first yearbook.
- 192L **INSTALLATION PACKET:** A collection of different installation programs that will be found interesting and useful for installing your new officers.

# Showcase

## *Skagit Rascal*

Exhibited by: **Tony Hulleman**

From Best AVSA Collection

2001 National Show

Hybridized by: **W. Lindstrom**

Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Opera's Il Straniero*

2nd Best New Cultivar

2001 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: **Olive Ma Robinson**

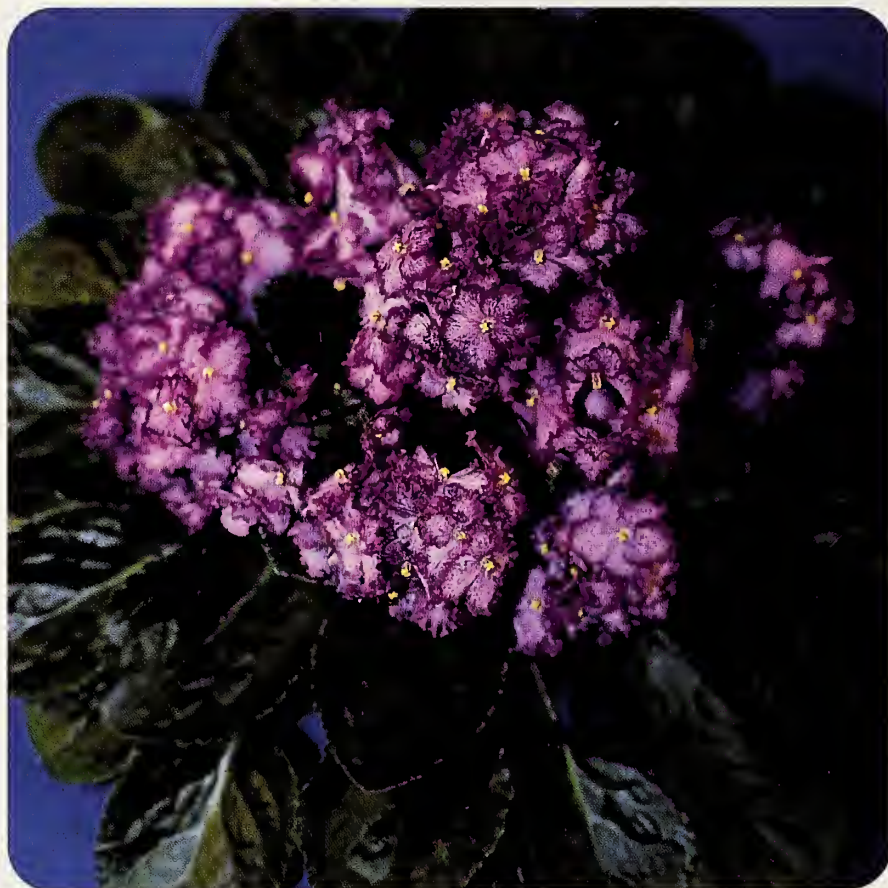


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

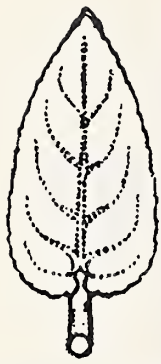




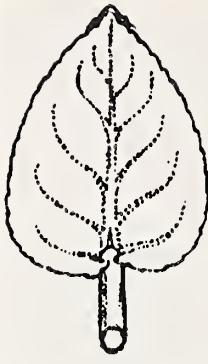
*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

*Streptocarpus*  
*'Bristol's Jumpin' Jack'*

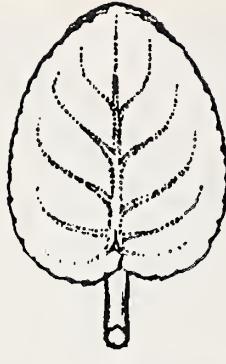
*Exhibited by: Gary Mikita*



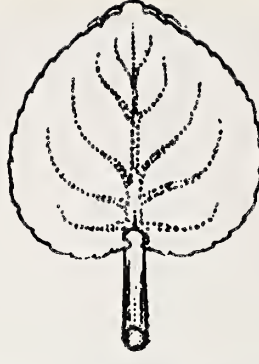
Longifolia Foliage



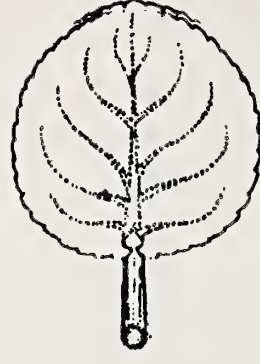
Pointed Foliage



Ovate Foliage



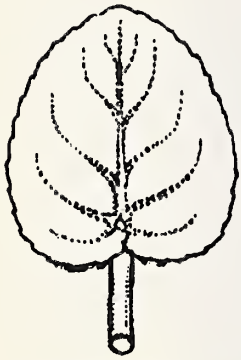
Heart-Shape Foliage



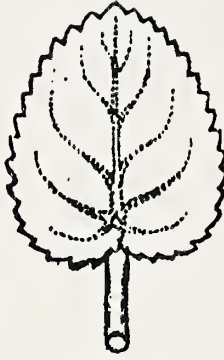
Round Foliage



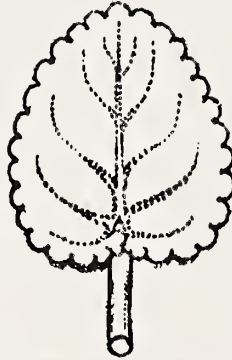
Spooned Foliage



Plain Foliage



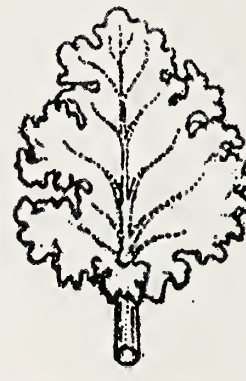
Serrated Leaf



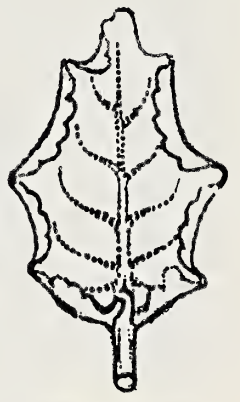
Scalloped Leaf



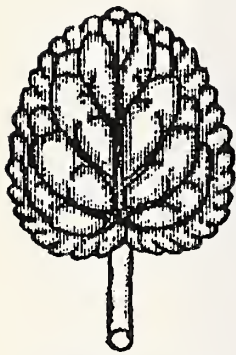
Ruffled Foliage



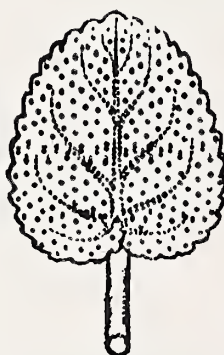
Fringed Foliage



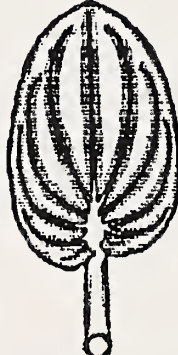
Holly Foliage



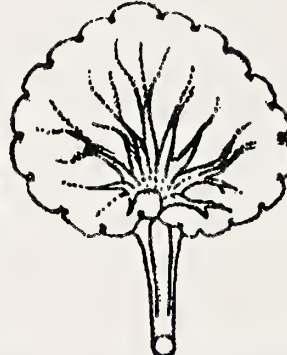
Quilted Foliage



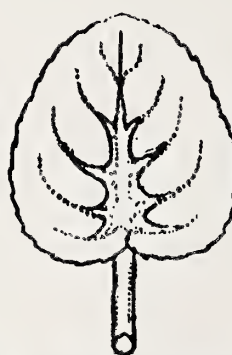
Pebbled Foliage



Clackamas Foliage



Typical Girl Foliage



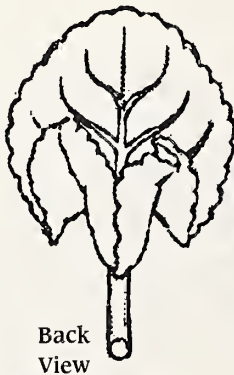
"Flat" or "Modified" Girl Leaf



Supreme Leaf



Side View



Back View

Bustle Foliage



Crown Variegation



Mosaic Variegation



Tommy Lou Variegation



# African Violet Foliage Types

Here are some definitions and accompanying illustrations relating to the foliage descriptions you may see in the African Violet Master List or in catalogs.

**Longifolia Foliage** - Leaves are elongated, narrow and pointed, sometimes ruffled, depending on cultivar. This type of leaf is also known as **Spider Foliage**.

**Pointed Foliage** - Leaf tip comes to a definite point.

**Ovate Foliage** - Leaves are egg-shaped.

**Heart-Shaped Foliage** - Leaves are relatively broad, with large lobes at the base, and somewhat pointed at the tip.

**Round Foliage** - Leaves are roughly circular in outline.

**Spooned Foliage** - Leaves are concave, like the bowl of a spoon. Also known as **Cupped Foliage**.

**Plain Foliage** - Leaf margin is smooth or has barely recognizable teeth. Areas between the veins are flush. This type of foliage is also called **Boy**, **Tailored**, or **Standard**.

**Serrated Foliage** - Leaf margins have pointed teeth.

**Scalloped Foliage** - Leaf margins have rounded teeth.

**Ruffled Foliage** - Leaf margins are slightly to moderately waved. Also called "**Wavy**" or "**Fluted**". The words **Fringed**, **Crested**, **Curly** or **Lacy** can be used when leaf edges are heavily waved.

**Holly Foliage** - Leaves are thick and heavily crested with sections of the margins turned up or back so that the leaf outline resemble that of holly.

**Quilted Foliage** - Areas between the veins are raised, resembling quilted fabric.

**Pebbled Foliage** - Surface of the leaf is glossy, sparsely haired, and covered with tiny but very noticeable bumps at the bases of the hairs. Also called **Strawberry Foliage**.

**Clackamas Foliage** - Leaf form is somewhat elongated with all major veins starting near the base and running lengthwise, nearly parallel to each other. Areas between the veins are raised, giving an almost pleated look. Named for 'Clackamas Rattler', the first cultivar with this type of leaf. Sometimes called **Watermelon Foliage**.

**Red-Backed Foliage** - Leaf backs are solid red-purple. Not illustrated.

**Girl Leaf** - The light-colored spot where the leaf attaches to the stem is greatly enlarged with projections that taper into the major veins of the leaf. This type of foliage is often is deeply scalloped, round or heart-shaped, and rolled up at the base. **Modified Girl Foliage** is a flat-leafed version of this type.

**Supreme Foliage** - This type of foliage sometimes results by chance during vegetative propagation of a normal plant. It is caused by a doubling of the normal number of chromosomes. Leaves are larger, thicker, rounder, hairier, and more brittle than usual, often with scalloped edges or quilting, that don't appear in the parent cultivar. Sometimes it is called **Amazon** or **DuPont** foliage.

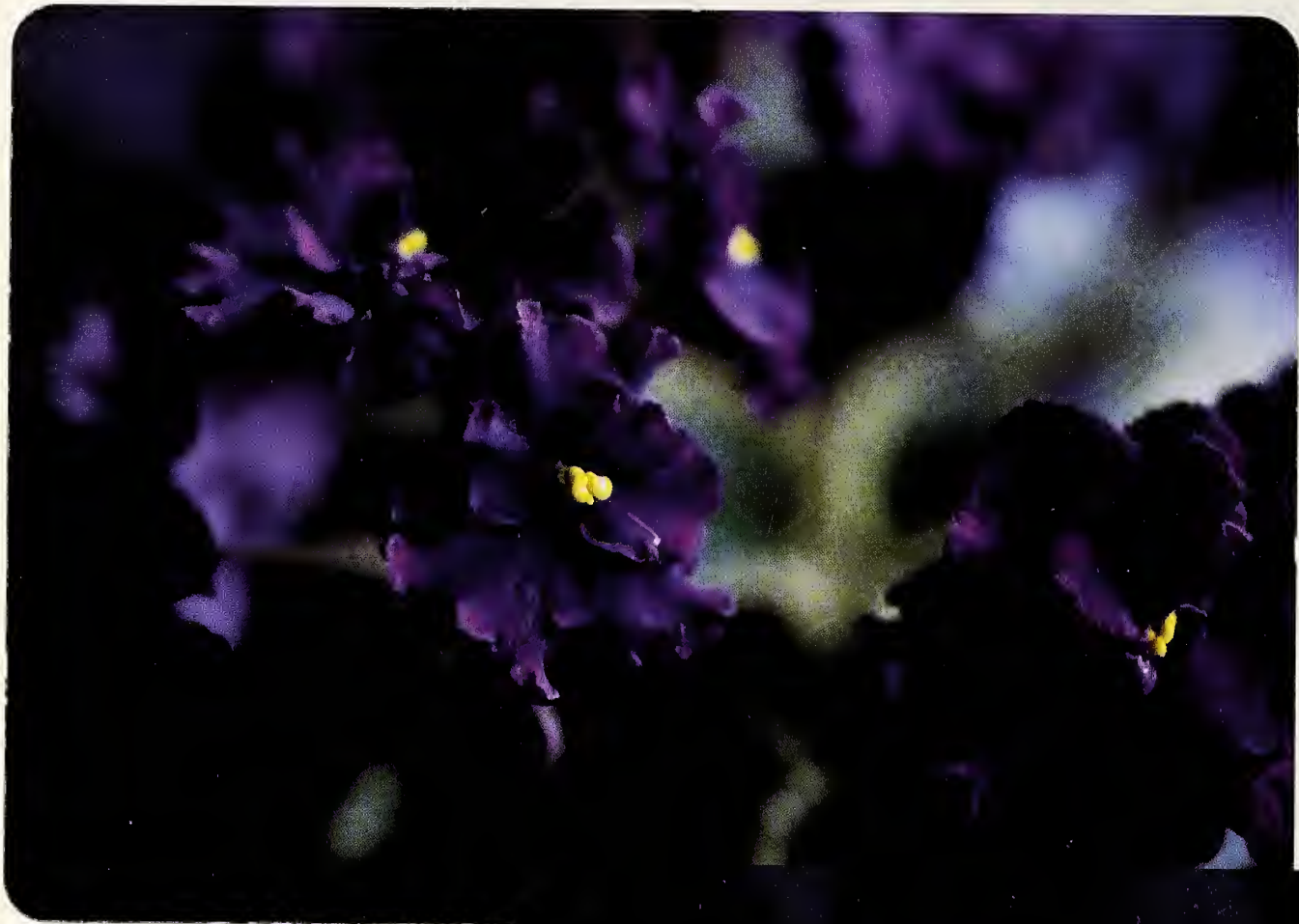
**Bustle Foliage** - The lobes at the base of the leaf are folded under, creating the appearance of two small leaflets attached to a larger one. Often the two lobes are fused together at their center edges, making it look as if a single small leaf is attached to the back of a larger leaf. Many plants with this kind of leaf have wasp blossoms. Also called **Compound**, **Piggyback**, or **Wasp**.

**Crown Variegation** - New leaves are mane cream, tan, or pale pink. Green color develops from the center out as the leaf matures, tinting the major veins first. This type of variegation often has a "grainy" appearance. Leaf may be solid green, or have a variegated edge when completely mature. Also called **Champion Variegation** by some because the hybridizer, Ethel Champion, did a lot of work with this kind of foliage.

**Mosaic Variegation** - This type of variegation consists of small spots and streaks of silvery white, light green, or pink, occurring mostly in the center of the leaf. Sometimes called **Lilian Jarrett Variegation** because a mutation of that cultivar was the first to exhibit this kind of variegation.

**Tommie Lou Variegation** - The most common type of variegation, and if foliage is simply described as "variegated" this is probably the type of variegation it has. This type of variegation is very variable in appearance. Sometimes it produces a well-defined matte white, pink, or tan edge on the leaf. Other times, the leaves are matte white, pink or tan with large green blotches.

*From Violet Notes, Publication of the  
Pittsburgh Violet and Gesneriad Society*



*Appalachian  
Grand  
Ruffles*

*Hybridized & Grown by:  
Kathleen C. Arceneaux*



# Some Thoughts on Hybridizing African Violets

by Kathleen C. Arceneaux, Ph.D.

Hybridizing African violets takes both patience and optimism - the patience to nurture the developing plants with constancy, and the optimism that with care, the plants will thrive and bloom. The seeds are so small that they are scarcely visible specks, and when they sprout, they appear to be tiny green dots on the surface of the planting medium. When viewed with a magnifying glass, the new plants have two tiny, furry leaves and a single thread of a root, as transparent and fragile as glass. Each seed has potential in its complicated genetic coding, and each plant is unique. The opening of the new blossoms is the reward for nearly a year of consistent nurturing, from pollination to first blooming.

Once I mastered the technique of growing violets from seeds that I purchased, the idea of hybridizing my own plants was irresistible. An article in the *African Violet* magazine, by Pat Hancock (July/August, 1996, pp. 36-37), further inspired me to attempt to produce quality show plants. (Pat's article also includes an excellent discussion of how to pollinate violets and grow from seeds.) I've now produced many crops of seedlings, and although I enjoy all my hybrids, most have been given away or discarded because my growing space is so limited. Because of my small growing space, and because I am a perfectionist, I keep only the best. I appreciate the help of my fellow club members, because I give them as many seedlings as they can tolerate to grow out to blooming size.

My goal in hybridizing is not only to produce blossoms that are beautiful and unusual, but also to work on improving the quality of the overall plant. There are many factors to consider. The leaves should form a symmetrical rosette, overlapping in layers with no spaces in between. I also prefer foliage that is substantial in texture, and not "touchy" and easily damaged. The blossom count should be high, and the blooms held well above the foliage on sturdy stalks. I prefer a plant that blooms constantly, rather than sending up blossoms in waves and then going dormant between blooming cycles, and that is something I have tried to achieve. My growing space is limited and there is a kind of natural selection among my seedlings, in that if a plant can thrive in my less-than-perfect growing conditions, it will probably thrive anywhere!

My hybridizing now goes back several years, and I can trace the genealogy of any of my seedlings. One of my most successful seedlings is 'Appalachian Hootie'. Hootie is a double, vivid coral, and puts up a huge number of blossoms. To date, it has had the highest blossom count of any of my seedlings at first blooming. It has tailored, forest-green foliage with a delicate lace of creamy-pink edging. I think the contrast between the dark foliage and bright blossoms is quite

striking. Hootie is a cross between 'Peach Sundae' and 'Appalachian Raspberry'. 'Peach Sundae' is a plant that Pat mentioned in her article, and it seemed to have so many good qualities that I knew I had to have it to use in my crosses. It's a double peachy-pink on medium green, variegated, well-behaved foliage, and it puts up an impressive number of blossoms.

'Appalachian Raspberry', Hootie's "pollen parent," is one of my own crosses, and is a double rose-pink with wide, purple fantasy splashes. And to go even farther back in Hootie's history, 'Appalachian Raspberry' is a cross between 'Midnight Love' and an unnamed single, rose-pink pansy with a darker eye and purple fantasy splashes. 'Midnight Love' is one of my favorite plants, and has brick-red star-shaped blossoms with a fine, white edging. Hootie probably gets its unusual color from having this plant in its background. Hootie blooms early and abundantly, and hasn't been out of bloom since opening its first blossoms. If disbudded for show, it should prove to be quite spectacular. (I realize that the name "Hootie" is unusual - the plant was named after my daughter's goldfish!)

From this same cross - 'Peach Sundae' and 'Appalachian Raspberry' - also comes 'Appalachian Splash'. The plant gets its variegated foliage from 'Peach Sundae', and has inherited the fantasy splashes from 'Appalachian Raspberry'. It has a symmetrical rosette with lightly scalloped leaves edged in cream. The blossoms are unusual in that they are single, stick-tite pansies that open to have perfectly "flat" faces of substantial texture. The pink petals are randomly splashed with purple, and the blossom stalks are bright pink!

Another cross that produced interesting results was between 'Happy Returns' and 'Vintage Wine'. 'Happy Returns' has sturdy foliage that forms a show-quality rosette, and its blossoms are white edged with cherry-red. 'Vintage Wine' has dark green variegated foliage and double wine blossoms. The foliage is excellent, but the blossom count is average, at best. My goal for this cross was modest - I hoped to retain the quality in foliage and achieve wine-colored and/or edged blossoms that had the high blossom-count of 'Happy Returns'.

Initially, this cross was disappointing, in that it produced a tedious crop of plant after plant with identical, ordinary purple blossoms, and not the deep wine-color that I'd hoped for. And then, finally, came a particularly outstanding plant - 'Appalachian Grand Ruffles'. This plant was a complete surprise in its unusual and striking blossom-color and in its prodigious numbers of blossoms. The blossoms are double, and are a rich, velvety purple with a wide raspberry edging.

Under grow lights, the blossoms' edges have an almost iridescent glow. I knew it would be something special even before its blossoms opened, in that it put up multiple stalks with encouraging, branching candelabras of buds. The cloud of blossoms at first blooming was quite amazing.

Grand Ruffles' foliage is just what I look for in a quality plant. The leaves are large and sturdy, and although they are lightly ruffled, they layer perfectly and symmetrically. The leaves are dark green with a frosting of cream variegation, and are blushed with pink on the reverse. I have grown this plant now in various seasons and temperatures, and it seems to hold its variegation consistently, unlike some variegates that bleach nearly to white or revert to green. The leaves have the look of a heavy brocade, and I think the plant is quite formal and stately. It is a plant I will always want to keep in my collection, and I think it will make an outstanding show-plant. I would love to see it grown to perfection, something I can't do in my cramped growing space.

I have also been working with the yellows, although I admit it can be frustrating. The yellow color seems to be linked to misshapen blossoms, and it seems that the brighter the yellow color, the less likelihood that the blossoms will be perfectly shaped. 'Anne's Sunkist' is the product of several generations of crossing yellows, whites, and pinks. The plant was grown out by Anne Robertson, a club member who is an experienced and skillful grower. I was amazed by this unusual plant when she brought it to a club meeting. The ruffled foliage is very dark, and has less leaf-hair than most African violets, which gives the nearly black foliage a glossy sheen. The foliage is lightly variegated white and pink. The blossoms are semi-double pink with yellow rays, which appear orange when blended with the yellow. The blossoms have better form than many of the yellow-blends I've seen, and are quite unique in color.

One of my crosses has produced somewhat quirky results, in that many of the blossoms have green blush or green edges. In this cross, I used 'Peach Sundae' again, this time crossing it with 'Rob's Sarsaparilla', which also has a very high blossom count. From this cross is 'Appalachian Dusty'. The blossoms are double, and are a dusty pink blushed with green. The pink blended with green give some

of the blossoms a tan appearance that is quite unusual. Unlike many "green" blossomed plants, the blossoms are not ruffled, and the foliage is tailored and shapely. This plant, also, is very floriferous.

And then there is 'Tussy Mussy' (a Tussy Mussy is a small, ornamental bouquet that is carried in the hands). This plant was the product of a cross between 'Rob's Hand Puppet' and 'Rob's Blueberry Patches'. The idea behind this experiment was to cross two chimeras (plants with pinwheel striped blossoms) together to see if there would be chimeras among the seedlings. There were - two of the seedlings had pinwheel striped blossoms, one white with lavender stripes, and one dark purple with white stripes. However, 'Tussy Mussy' was the best of the sixty-five seedlings I grew out, in its interesting color combination and abundance of blossoms. The plant is a semi-miniature, crown variegated in creamy-yellow that shades to bronze depending on the growing temperature (light yellow in cool temperatures, bronze in summer heat). The blossoms are double, and are a pale, clear, lavender-blue. The combination between the warm yellow foliage and icy lavender is quite pleasing, and with its bountiful bouquet of blossoms and good rosette, it should make a quality show plant.

Watching the transitions from seed to seedling and then blooming plant is rewarding, and I think of hybridizing as a kind of "designing." One thing that has struck me as I come to know more and more violet growers is the connection between a love of violets and of crafts. So many "violet people" that I've met do some sort of visual art, including quilting, needle-point, knitting, crocheting, weaving, drawing, and/or painting. I was educated as a visual artist, first as a painter, and lately, I have been designing and making quilts. In both the quilts and the violets, I am working with "swatches" of color and shapes - of cloth, and of petals, blossoms, and leaves. There is also the satisfaction of achieving a result where all the elements come together in fresh and compelling ways. In both quilting and hybridizing, there is a quiet satisfaction in handling the delicate materials, and I enjoy the slow, meditative pace as one strives to balance colors and forms and patterns. And of course, there is always the speculation, "I wonder what new result I will get if I put these elements together..."



## Insects

by Gary Beck • San Francisco, CA

There are several insects that attack our African violets. Some are easily controlled; others need time to be eradicated.

The most common are the thrips, which feed on pollen. Spilled yellow pollen on the flowers is a key sign of infestation. Isolate, disbud, and spray once every seven days for three weeks (Raid House & Garden is effective).

Two types of mealy bug invade African violets. Foliar type is visible on the petioles and peduncles as white cottony masses. Malathion is a good spray to use.

Pritchard's or soil mealy bug is a tiny, white, rice-looking insect that is visible on the root ball and in water reservoirs. It is a pesky bug that is hard to get rid of. Some growers use Knox-Out as a soil drench. Also, sterilize your soil mix, repot separately with clean hands, and break down badly infected plants to a small crown with a one inch neck and no roots. Propagate in a covered container.

*From the "CA Council News"*



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## In the Good Old Summertime

Some of you may wonder why I don't respond to your correspondence very fast in July and August. Gone fishin' is the reason. We spend the month of July and part of August in Bodega Bay. Bodega Bay is a small fishing village some sixty miles north of San Francisco on the Pacific Coast. Inland here in Auburn, the July and August temperature runs anywhere from 90° to 110° F.

What was it that Herb Caen, the renowned columnist from the San Francisco Examiner said? "The coldest winter he ever had was a summer in San Francisco". Give me the high fog and Pacific breezes anytime to the 100 degrees plus here at home!

Salmon season starts in mid April, but the real salmon run starts in July. Last year was pretty dismal, the year before fantastic. One never knows how the next year will be. About every five years, the fish just don't show up. But a good time is had whether the fish show up or not.

There is the Fourth of July Pot-luck, the fireworks from the deck, and of course the very cool summer temperatures

at Bodega Bay. The only bad thing about fishing is that I have to come home just to water the plants! It's an overnight stay to get them all watered!

In July and August think of me with a fishing pole in my hand aboard the 26-foot diesel vessel "Low Budget". The name? It's a long story. No, I don't eat salmon either.

Hey, did you know that 'Ann Slocomb', 'Purple Crest' and 'Rococo Pink' just surfaced after being on the "Wanted List" for years? Don't give up if I don't have what you are looking for. Maybe, it will eventually show up.

Please remember to always return the postage asked for or not.

## AVSA Most Wanted

Blizzard  
Daddy's Girl  
Double Cherry Soda

Friendship  
Jade  
Wedgewood



### Affiliate Update

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*  
P. O. Box 646 • Clintwood, VA 24228  
[Promers22@hotmail.com](mailto:Promers22@hotmail.com)

Congratulates and welcome to the following new affiliate:

**River Cities African Violet Club**  
President - JoAnn Marti  
6621 Lenox Avenue  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

# Me? A Judge?

by Carolee Carter • Morgan Hill, California

Me? A judge? Doesn't that mean that I have to study and take a test? No way!

Wait. Let's stop and consider this hasty decision. Why would I be envious of what they get to do?

Here's why.

I signed up for a judges' school in 1995 in conjunction with a state show, mainly because so many of my fellow club members were doing the same. The judges I knew said it would increase my overall knowledge of growing African violets, regardless of whether or not I actually became a judge. How right they were! Taking the course encompasses a vast amount of knowledge about our hobby, or, as it is in my case, my obsession!

The "bible" of the course is the Handbook for growers, Exhibitors, and Judges. My copy is written in, highlighted, dog-eared, and is an often-used reference book. If for no other reason than to increase your knowledge of how to grow African violets into prize-winning plants, enroll in a judging school. However, I hope that after the class is given, you stay for the exam. You'll be surprised at how much you know already and how much you learned during the class. When you pass, a whole new world opens up for you.

Imagine this: you're among the first who get to see the entries in a show, whether it be a local show, a state show or, if you're lucky, a national one. I was thrilled to have been selected to judge the Omaha show last year, and I can't tell you how exciting it was to walk into the room with the other judges and be the first to see the beautiful plants all at attention, in pristine condition, awaiting our inspection.

Judging these plants isn't easy, believe me. If you are at a

national show and almost all of the plants are blue-ribbon winners, imagine the difficulty in choosing a Best in Class or Best in Show. If you are at a local show and you have a number of red ribbon plants, you must keep focused to judge each plant on its own merits, not against the plant sitting next to it.

The Handbook states that judges should have these qualifications to be a good judge: knowledge, judgement, experience, fairness, courage, tact and kindness. When you think about these traits, you'll soon realize that judging a show strengthens you as a person. You develop all of these skills along with teamwork, as you work with other judges on your panel during the judging process.

Yes, it is a big responsibility; one that encourages you to think positively instead of negatively. A responsibility that requires you to look for beauty and not flaw. Shouldn't we be doing that in life? It encourages you to share your knowledge in this positive way by not only telling the grower with your comments of the good things they did but also things that they could do to improve the plant for the next show. When you're finished, you have a great feeling of satisfaction knowing you've helped another grower.

Judge's schools are offered at state and national shows based on demand, or you may be able to entice a teacher to visit your club to teach a class if you have enough participants. Check the September-October issue of *African Violet* to see a list of judges and teachers to find one near you. In order to take the class, you must be a member of AVSA and produce three blue ribbons won at AVSA approved shows.

So, if you indeed take your hobby, or obsession, seriously, then take the next step. Go to school and take the test!

## Grooming Streps

by Ralph Robinson

*Streptocarpus*, unlike African violets, with the exception of trailers and species, need not be grown single-crowned, even when exhibited. Though I do plant only one crown when I pot streps, these plants do eventually produce other small suckers and plants in the pot, not all of which I remove. It depends upon whether I can keep the plant growing symmetrically with this extra growth. As far as exhibiting is concerned, it doesn't matter one way or the other. A gesneriad, according to AGGS guidelines, can be displayed either single or multi-crowned. It matters not how the plant is presented, but *how well*.

My personal feeling is that a plant with just a few crowns usually appears more "neat" and "orderly", less crowded, and generally more attractive. It is also easier to shape into a symmetrical form. You don't want it to look "weedy", with a

big tangle of randomly growing foliage. Though many of our display plants are multicrowned, the secondary crowns are usually few and smaller. We constantly thin out the foliage, whether the plant is single or multiple-crowned.

Keep in mind, also, that most judges at African violet shows often have very limited knowledge of other gesneriads. So it's always something of a gamble entering plants grown so differently than violets. The judging of violets and other gesneriads are similar, but very definitely not the same. It would be great if all African violet judges (and we are), grow a variety of gesneriads other than violets, and grow them for show. Only in this way can we really understand their special needs and growing habits.

From *VioletsFun* Photo Journal





**Dale Martens**  
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*email martens@wt.net*

## *Caring for Newly Purchased Gesneriads*

Whenever I go to conventions, I bring zip-lock baggies, indelible markers, plastic labels, trash bags with a twist tie, and paper towels packed in my luggage. The first thing I do is remove all buds and flowers. Yes, remove every single one! This helps prevent bringing thrips and aphids home with me. Right there in the convention hotel, I knock the gesneriad from the pot, putting the soil in the trash bag. Actually, I almost never bring roots home if I can help it. My luggage weighs less if I pack the plants without soil. I try to remove every bit of soil and roots that I can while checking for soil mealy bugs or any other critters like centipedes or millipedes. If I should see insects and decide I truly do not want to throw away the plant material, I make two very large X's on the baggie and write what I saw. If the plant has a tuber or rhizome I remove it, clean it as best I can, then I put it in a separate baggie and label it. I prefer to put the top of the plant in its own baggie and not contaminate it with anything that had touched soil. I don't wash off tubers, rhizomes, or roots at the hotel, because it's rude and costly to clog the hotel's plumbing system.

When I get the plants home, it's time to really inspect each and every one very, very carefully. I use a strong light and with a magnifying glass I examine one plant at a time. Many of us dip a Q-tip in isopropyl alcohol and touch mealy bugs to watch them evaporate and die. That's good entertainment! Well, I wash tubers and rhizomes and give them the alcohol treatment or soapy insecticide just in case there's a sneaky pest hiding in a crack or crevice. After five minutes, I rinse the tuber or rhizome. I prefer to put the tubers and rhizomes in a small plastic baggie with moist vermiculite and check on each about a month later to see if there are any living creatures in the baggie.

I should let you know that I "rinse" my hands, scissors, tweezers, etc. in isopropyl alcohol between each and every

examination of plant material! In addition, I use a stack of paper plates on which I place each new piece of plant material. I throw the plate away and begin with a fresh plate for each piece of plant material. Trust me, you can't be too careful if you want a pest free collection!

I carefully examine the rootless tops of the plants and look for insects. I rinse them thoroughly for about two minutes in tepid running water. Soapy insecticides may be used at this time. Be sure to check the backs of the leaves for tiny eggs. White flies love to lay eggs on the backs of *Sinningia* leaves. At this time, I remove a leaf or stem for separate propagation. This is added insurance just in case the rest of the plant goes into shock and dies. Most gesneriad leaves and plants root quite easily if potted in a moist vermiculite and perlite mix. At this time I usually add some sort of insecticide to the moist mix, following the instructions on the label. I keep the plant material in that mix inside large baggies for two months' isolation. After two months, I slowly acclimate them to room air. Keep in mind, there's insecticide in that mix. I use rubber gloves to remove the pot and re-examine the root systems and leaves for insects. If I see no problems, I repot the plant in my regular mix. For one more month, I keep these new plants isolated from my regular collection and keep them disbudded. I'm lucky that I have a room with one plant stand just for this purpose.

Not to make any excuses for our commercial growers, but I think it's terribly difficult to keep insects out of greenhouses. The commercials do their best to be free of insects because their reputation is at stake. If you have a problem with insects from any specific commercial, please notify them personally rather than broadcast it to the computer lists.

The above routine is recommended for any new plants that you get, even if they are from your own mother!

# Thinking Small



## Pat Richards

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Olathe, KS 66062-3004  
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Today's column will be something different ... truly! For the first time in seven years, I could not attend the AVSA convention because of a death in my family. I sincerely thank everyone who expressed their condolences; it's wonderful to know the African violet family is so large and supportive.

As they say, "Best laid plans of mice and men, often go astray," and hope you understand: this column will be about the show winners ... from afar. I do not have the luxury of having seen photographs, but I do have access to the list of winners and am familiar with most of the plants. So here goes ...

### TOP WINNERS

Delores Gibbs from San Marcos, Texas earned the distinction of exhibiting the 2nd Best African Violet in Show and Best Miniature with the delightful Hortense Pittman hybrid, 'Peppermint Girl'. As indicated, this is a diminutive miniature with well-behaved girl foliage, topped by double rose-red flowers touched with a white edge. It is an older cultivar, having been introduced in 1992, but I still invite growers to try it along with other Pittman girl-foliage hybrids ('Honey Blue Angel', 'Petite Blarney', among others) for the simple reason the foliage grows well. Congratulations to Delores (a winner in both design and horticulture as last year she won Best in Show at the Omaha convention in design!)

Perennial winner Kathy Lahti from Minnesota exhibited the Best Semiminiature, 'Optimara Little Aztec', which has lovely purple red blossoms above dark foliage. Kathy also exhibited the best Inpijn hybrid 'Everdina', a miniature with beautiful fantasy blooms of lavender and bluish violet. Convention chairman Carol Allegretti won best 'Mickey Mouse', another renowned Inpijn miniature with tiny dark green foliage and abundant dark blue blooms. The Best Variegated semiminiature was Susan Andreson (Indiana) with the stalwart Scott hybrid, 'Bogeyman', with its perfect forming green and yellow foliage topped with very dark purple singles punctuated with bright yellow pollen sacks.

### AMATEUR COLLECTIONS

Kathy Lahti also grew the Best AVSA Small Collection composed of three Don Ness hybrids, 'Sugar Bear Blues', 'Ness' Mini Sota' and 'Ness' Sno Fun'. Anyone who reads this column on a regular basis can understand why she grows these plants as they are superb cultivars that have stood the test of time. 'Sugar Bear Blues' lifts copious amounts of silky medium blue flowers high above its dark foliage. 'Ness' Mini Sota' is one of the best chimera semi-minatures you could ever hope to grow! It is a disciplined plant with medium green foliage topped by perky white single blooms and medium fuchsia stripes. 'Ness' Sno Fun' is, in my opinion, the best white semiminiature, and a true classic in every sense of the word. Its foundation is very symmetrical medium green foliage above which masses of white blooms are produced. There should be no difficulty getting any of these cultivars to do well for you!

The 2nd Best AVSA Small Collection was shown by Elmer Gadeny of Louisiana, winner of best in show at the 1999 AVSA convention with a standard! This year, Elmer showed everyone he can grow the small ones, too with his collection of two Pittman classics, 'Pride of Columbus' (lavender with darker tips) and 'Pat Champagne' (dark blue with white edge) along with 'Rob's Outer Orbit'. These variegated Pittman semiminiatures appear regularly among the list of winning plants. It should be no surprise they perform so well. 'Rob's Outer Orbit' is a newer variegated semiminiature from Rob's Mini-O-Lets with lovely, well-behaved tan and green foliage, with remarkable "puff" fantasy blossoms of purple with pink puffs touched with a white edge.

For the first time in many years, none of the Holtkamp collections were composed of miniature or semiminiature plants. Even Kathy Lahti, who is so well recognized for having the best collection with miniature Optimara, exhibited standard Optimaras and won with them! A new series of collections appeared this year, though: the "Robinson Collection", featuring Ralph Robinson hybrids. The best collection was shown by Minnesota's Kenneth Rein with 'Rob's

Doohickey', 'Rob's Romancer', and 'Rob's Smarty Pants', a series of miniatures! The first throws abundant lavender-purple almost wasp-like plants atop small growing foliage. The second features enchanting fuchsia-red blooms with a fine white edge atop variegated foliage. The third is a delightful cultivar with wavy medium green foliage with ruffled blooms of white and pink, sometimes showing a hint of green. Kathy Lahti showed the 2nd Best Robinson Collection with semi-miniatures 'Rob's Heebie Jeebie', which has white with variable fuchsia markings, 'Rob's Bamboozle' (blossoms of delightful rosy-pink), and 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy', the small-growing semi with dark foliage capped by a bouquet of mauve-purple single blooms with attractive prominent yellow pollen sacks.

### COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE

Dr. Ralph Robinson returned to winning form with his top prize winning Display Table. On his table, Rob showed the Best African Violet in the commercial section, 'Rob's Boogie Woogie'. I have spoken of this semiminature cultivar many times, and cannot say enough about its delicate beauty: smooth, creamy pink blooms held above beautiful, well-managed, variegated foliage. It receives many awards and is highly regarded. The 2nd Best African Violet in commercial horticulture, 'Rob's Doohickey', was also on this table and is described above.

Olive Ma Robinson exhibited the Best AVSA Small Collection with 'Optimara Little Crystal', 'Optimara Rose Quartz', and 'Optimara Little Amethyst'. All three miniatures

are well known to violet growers, the first with white wasp-like blooms, the second with double blooms of creamy pink, and the third with dark rosy-red blooms with a fine white edge. Ralph Robinson grew the 2nd Best AVSA Small Collection with semiminatures 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy', 'Rob's Antique Rose', and 'Rob's Fuzzy Navel'. The latter two are exceptional cultivars. 'Rob's Antique Rose' tends to grow large, but with proper culture can maintain its size. It is well worth growing as it is a terrific bloomer with pink blooms and a green edge held above slightly ruffled, pointed foliage. 'Rob's Fuzzy Navel' is also an abundant bloomer with light to medium pink semi-miniature blooms atop good-forming foliage.

The top commercial Holtkamp Collection was exhibited by Olive Ma Robinson containing 'Optimara Little Shoshone', with blooms of medium pink with a darker center, 'Optimara Little Pawnee' (a lovely blue-purple on dark foliage) and 'Optimara Little Aztec' (described earlier).

### PLAIN AND SIMPLE

Very few of these award winning plants were recently introduced, in fact most are relatively "old" cultivars that stand the test of time, growing easily, symmetrically, and blooming abundantly. Most are not incredibly fancy plants, but are rather plain and reliable and as can be seen from the results, they grow well for numerous exhibitors across many areas of the country. These stalwart performers would be tremendous additions to any collection. Have a good summer, but don't neglect your violets!



# FERTILIZING FOR GOOD FOLIAGE

by Sue Gardner

Fertilizers contain several elements necessary for plant growth. These are -

- Nitrogen - main factor in leaf and stem growth
- Phosphorus - needed for all aspects of growth and flower production
- Potassium - produces strength & vitality of foliage
- Calcium - needed for strong growth
- Magnesium - needed for healthy green foliage
- Sulphur - needed for healthy green leaves (supplied as sulphate)

On a fertilizer label you will see a N: P: K value. This tells us the percentage amounts of these three elements contained in the fertilizer.

For strong, healthy, green leaves, use a fertilizer with a

high nitrogen content. Magnesium calcium and sulphur are usually present and mentioned on the label.

### Rules for Fertilizing

- Never fertilize a dry plant.
- Do not over fertilize - you will burn your plant. A good rule of thumb is to use 1/8 teaspoon per two liters of water for powdered fertilizers.
- Leach every eight weeks with tepid water to remove build-up of salts in potting mix.
- For variegated plants, use a high nitrogen fertilizer when young to produce growth, but a lower nitrogen one later to produce variegation.

*From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group, Inc.*

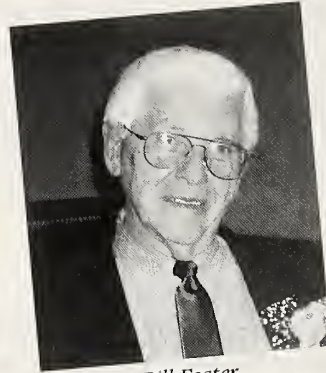
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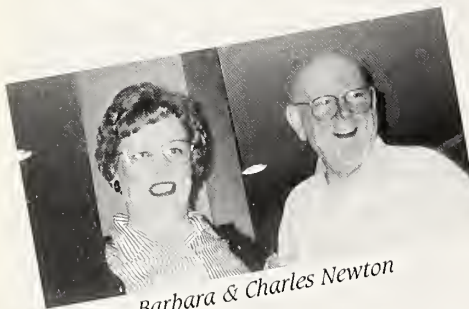
*Carol Semrau*



*Mollie Howell*



*Ralph & Olive Ma Robinson*



*Barbara & Charles Newton*



*Jerry & Gary Gordon*



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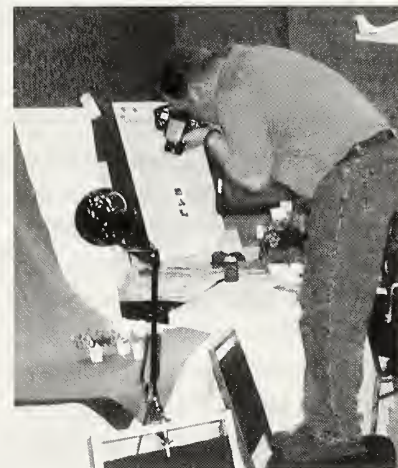
*Bill Price & Bob Clark*



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*Paula Foster & Meredith Hall*



*Marcia Belisle*



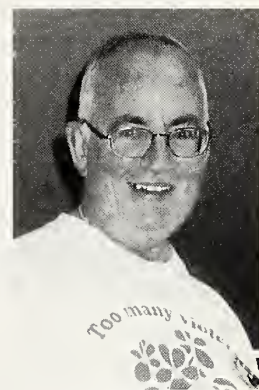
*Myrna Kosowan*



*Shirley Sanders & Darryl Hoover*



*King Karl & Georgette Jolivette*



*Dick Harriman*



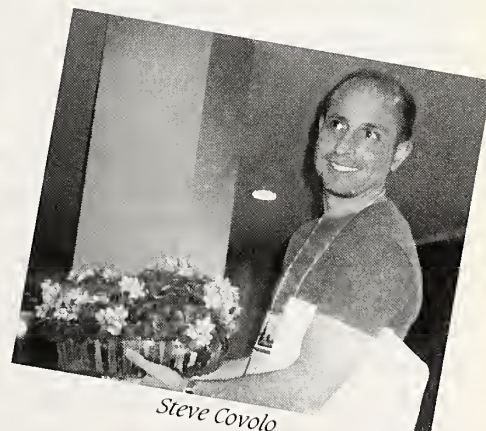
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*Gail Podany*



*Carol Allegretti*



*Steve Covolo*

# An African Violet Can Live Forever

by Kurt Eckard • Philadelphia, PA

Ironically, supermarkets, variety stores, and craft supply/nursery shops are usually good places to buy violets. They're inexpensive and most of them bear the Optimara, Rhapsodie, or Ultraviolet label. These cultivars have been extensively bred to flower well in lower light and are produced in a wide range of blossom types and colors. They also sleeve well for transport and survive periods of neglect.

When buying, remove the sleeve temporarily for inspection and choose healthy, undamaged, single-crown specimens. If there are suckers at leaf axils or at the soil level, remove them later with tweezers, or the emerging new crowns will spoil symmetry, attractiveness, and flower production. Multiple crowns can be divided, of course, but it takes time, patience, and know how. Finally, avoid plants with pollen smears on the flowers. This indicates the presence of thrips, a common pest.

Another test for thrips is to lightly flick a flower with your fingertip. If present, the insects will scurry to hide beneath the blossom. Before leaving the store, be sure your new plant is wrapped well for its ride home.

Florists and commercial green houses also often stock African violets. Always select plants with healthy, vigorous, and open foliage.

## CULTURE BASICS

Once home, your new arrival will reward you with long-lasting flowers year round if you meet just a few basic culture requirements. Today's "high-performance" cultivars are derived from the so-called "African violet", a wild *Saintpaulia* species that evolved in the Eastern Arc of Tanzania.

Sandwiched between Kenya to the north and Mozambique to the south, this East African area contains a dozen mountain and coastal rainforests that date back at least 100 million years. Wild violets were often found growing in rich soil and in shallow, loose patches of decayed organic material trapped in the fissures and crevices of limestone and granite rocks. Temperatures were moderately warm and the plants were continually bathed in moist flowing air. The total range of the species is very small and located less than 100 miles south of the equator. Well over 20 species have been identified in the past 100 years.

Thus, high humidity, moderate temperatures, flowing air, bright indirect light, and loose, porous soil are the essential requirements. Temperatures in the low seventies are ideal, and a ten degree drop at night is okay. Avoid chilly drafts.

Wet pebble trays or small containers of water placed near the plants will do wonders. Good humidity will increase the number and size of flowers and will greatly extend their lives. I use a room humidifier for convenience during lighting periods while forcing show plant bloom. The hot air heating system

dries the air severely in the winter.

Although direct sunlight in the winter is usually not harmful, avoid prolonged exposure to the harsh summer sun of southwest or west facing windows. A protective sheer curtain will be helpful in these cases. As a rule-of-thumb, increase light if the plant's petioles and leaves lift upwards. Conversely, reduce light exposure if leaves curl down below the pot rim. The ideal light is attained when the plant flowers well and the leaves extend outward in a flat pattern.

Violets are also easily grown under fluorescent lamps.

## FEEDING AND GROOMING

The most satisfactory way to feed is to do it at each watering. Into a gallon of dechlorinated water, place Peters African Violet Food (12-36-14), Optimara Violet Food (14-12-14), Schultz, or Miracle Gro, etc. 20-20-20 is a bit rich in nitrogen for the mature plant and may result in a loss of compactness.

Philadelphia water is alkaline (7.4+); therefore, I also add a quarter teaspoon of vinegar, so that the water pH is approximately neutral. Top or bottom watering are both fine, but take care not to wet the foliage while it is in sunlight. Leaf spot damage will result. Discard any solution not absorbed after 30 minutes. Avoid wet dry extremes and maintain an evenly moist soil level. Over-watering is the most frequent killer of African violets.

Regular grooming pays big dividends and keeps your plant in tip-top condition. Remove leaf dust with a soft brush. Washing the foliage gently with tepid water occasionally will keep it productive and attractive. Avoid wetting the crown, however, and always pat the leaves dry with small pieces of paper toweling.

Spent blossoms may be removed with manicure scissors. Remove a blossom stalk completely after its last flowers are spent. Also remove yellowing or withering lower leaves. They attract pests and disease if allowed to accumulate on or near the soil.

Lastly, regular rotation will prevent uneven and lopsided growth. Space here doesn't allow for coverage of pests and diseases, but don't worry - if your plants appear healthy, they probably are. If you suspect a problem, ask for advice from a local African Violet Society member if you know one and isolate the plant.

## REPOTTING

Repot your plant annually, or if growth slows, or if it develops an unsightly "neck." African violets grow in a manner similar to palm trees. New leaves gradually reach the position of lower or outer leaves. They still photosynthesize and are attractive, but flower buds will not form at their axils.

As a survival mechanism, flower buds emerge only in the

central or inner rows. A mature seedpod takes about nine months to develop and mature after fertilization occurs. Thus, viable seed is produced only if the supporting blossom stalk is located where it will live for the needed period. Lower leaves will wither and die before the seed process is completed, and blossom stalks at these locations would not survive.

Ultimately, as more and more lower leaves drop off, the emerging bare stem becomes a "neck" and repotting should be done promptly. The procedure is not difficult and a little practice will soon give you confidence.

To keep the violet a manageable size, use plastic four inch AZ tubs. Clay pots are not recommended as they dry too quickly and damage petioles.

Place a small circle of wet paper towel in the bottom of a clean tub and then add a shallow layer (up to one inch) of coarse perlite. Next, carefully remove the plant from the old pot and examine the symmetry. Several rows of lower leaves may be safely removed if desired to promote growth and keep the violet to reasonable size. African violets look their best if the rosette diameter is about three times the tub diameter. I usually reduce the proportion when repotting, however, to allow for the growth that will occur. If you do remove leaves, do it evenly so that a nice pattern results.

Next, use a knife to slice from the rootball bottom an amount equal to the length of the neck. Brush loose soil from the top and remove a small amount from the sides. Lastly, use a sharp knife blade to LIGHTLY scrape protective brown scale from the neck. Dust the neck thoroughly with Rootone with fungicide (the fungicide is the important ingredient).

Place the plant in the center of the prepared clean tub and check for the correct height. Positioned properly, the lowermost petioles should be perpendicular to the pot rim. Adjust, as required, by changing the perlite layer, by adding soil to the

bottom, or by removing additional soil from the rootball. After correctly positioning the plant, carefully add new soil. Spoon it in gently and evenly and never tamp or pack it down. Rather, settle it in by tapping the bottom and sides of the pot.

African violet roots need air, so a loose, porous mix with a pH of 6.4 to 7.2 is ideal. Today's common blends are a soilless mix of milled Canadian sphagnum peat moss, coarse perlite, ground dolomite limestone, and horticultural charcoal. The mix should be moist, and I always use a steam pasteurized batch.

The repotting finished, I saucer water initially with a solution of ten drops of Superthrive to one gallon of water. It aids in preventing root shock.

## CONCLUSION

As you have seen, *Saintpaulia* culture requirements are relatively easy to meet. Consistency is the key, and your plants will thrive with a little regular attention. Contrary to some beliefs, they can be grown splendidly in the greenhouse if light is filtered or if you shade them from direct sun with other plants.

My repotting suggestions are basic and will give you excellent results. Other techniques employ wicks and reservoirs and self-watering devices. For example, plastic Dandy Pots are colorful and give superb results.

Whatever your violet experience has been in the past, why not try a few again? You'll quickly become experienced, and the accomplishment and bright flowers will fill your days with cheer and happiness.

Someone once asked me how long a violet will live. Barring infestations, of course, it has no life span. With regular repotting and loving care, an African violet can live forever.

*From "Chatter", publication of the AVS of Canada.*



# Restarting a Plant From the Crown

by Cheryl Salatino

Restarting a plant from the crown may be the only solution if your plant is having problems, but the crown still consists of healthy foliage.

- Remove the majority of the foliage, leaving six center leaves on the plant. Cut the neck down to 1 1/2" or 2" and scrape gently.
- Fill a 2 1/2" to 3" pot with a light soil mix that has been pre-moistened. Place the stub in a hole in the center. Add enough pre-moistened potting soil to fill in around it.
- Place the pot in a plastic bag or under a domed tray for about two weeks. Make sure the plant gets some air if too much moisture collects.
- Once it sets new roots and you can see some additional growth, the plant has successfully become established. Groom by removing the bottom row of leaves,

which will most likely be undersized compared to the new foliage.

Restarting a plant from its crown is much quicker than propagating from a leaf cutting. It also offers much less risk in losing the characteristics of the variety.

There are other instances when restarting a crown should be considered.

- The neck has grown so long that potting down is impossible.
- A center row of leaves grows abnormally small due to excess heat or other culture problems, such as over fertilization or marring.
- Crown rot due to stress or over-watering.

While it may be difficult to snip the crown off of a favorite plant, think of it as an act of rescue.

# Registration Report



**Iris Keating**  
149 Loretto Court  
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

## Linda Stickney – Maroa, IL

- \***Glorious Angel** (9000) 3/7/01 (L. Stickney) Double light fuchsia/variable white edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- \***Prairie Wildfire** (9001) 3/7/01 (L. Stickney) Single fuchsia-red pansy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- \***Serengeti** (9002) 3/7/01 (L. Stickney) Semidouble dark blue-purple frilled pansy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Sylvia Harrison – Cato Ridge, South Africa

- \***Silverglade Beads** (9003) 3/7/01 (S. Harrison) Single white star/orchid patches. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Silverglade Plums** (9004) 3/7/01 (S. Harrison) Semidouble lavender frilled/white eye, mauve patches. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Silverglade Puffs** (9005) 3/7/01 (S. Harrison) Double medium pink, white and green frilled. Medium green, plain, pointed. **Standard**
- \***Silverglade Sapphires** (9006) 3/7/01 (S. Harrison) Single purple-mauve/white eye, edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Greta Durand – Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada

- \***Bewitched** (9007) 3/13/01 (G. Durand) Single-semidouble chimera white large star/violet fantasy stripe. Dark green, plain, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- \***Chimo** (9008) 3/13/01 (G. Durand) Single-semidouble chimera dark blue ruffled large/white stripe. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Large**

- \***Little Emily** (9009) 3/13/01 (G. Durand) Double bright pink star. Medium green, plain, glossy, ruffled. **Miniature**
- \***Lucky Lucas** (9010) 3/13/01 (G. Durand) Single-semidouble dark blue large ruffled star. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Large**
- \***Newborn** (9011) 3/13/01 (G. Durand) Single blush white sticktite star. Dark green, plain, serrated/red back. **Standard**

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## David Thompson – Waterloo, IA

- \***Candy Stripes** (9012) 3/14/01 (D. Thompson) Single chimera hot pink sticktite ruffled pansy/white stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Fashion Lady** (9013) 3/14/01 (D. Thompson) Single pale pink sticktite frilled pansy/darker eye, edge. **Variiegated** green and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Femme Fatale** (9014) 3/14/01 (D. Thompson) Single light pink sticktite star/darker ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Firestorm** (9015) 3/14/01 (D. Thompson) Single red sticktite ruffled pansy. Dark green, heart-shaped, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***People Pleaser** (9016) 3/14/01 (D. Thompson) Single medium blue sticktite star/white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Standard**
- \***Plum Parasols** (9017) 3/14/01 (D. Thompson) Single violet-purple sticktite star/thin white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, ruffled, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Royal Dazzler** (9018) 3/14/01 (D. Thompson) Single chimera dark blue sticktite frilled pansy/white stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
- \***Sky and Snow** (9019) 3/14/01 (D. Thompson) Single white sticktite star/blue-tinged eye, blue ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Margaret Gratto – Red Deer, Alberta, Canada

- \***Susie's Delight** (9020) 3/22/01 (M. Gratto) Single chimera



white stickite pansy/pink and purple fantasy stripe.  
Dark green, plain. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Shirley Sanders – San Antonio, TX**

\***My Sue** (9021) 3/23/01 (S. Sanders/R. Brenton) Double dark blue star. Dark green girl foliage. **Miniature trailer**

\***Ramblin' Lassie** (9022) 3/23/01 (S. Sanders/R. Brenton) Semidouble blue-lavender star. **Variiegated** medium green and white girl foliage. **Semiminiature trailer**

\***Shiawasee Trail** (9023) 3/23/01 (S. Sanders/R. Brenton) Double blue and white variable star. Medium green girl foliage. **Standard trailer**

\***Thunder Surprise** (9024) 3/23/01 (S. Sanders) Double white star/blue eye, green edge. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**

\***San Antonio Lady** (9025) 3/29/01 (S. Sanders) Semidouble-double dark blue ruffled/pink overlay edge. **Variiegated** dark green and dark pink, ruffled. **Standard**



# HOW DO I CARE FOR THAT BABY?

by Sue Gardner

So you have removed your baby African violet from it's mother leaf and placed it in a small pot.

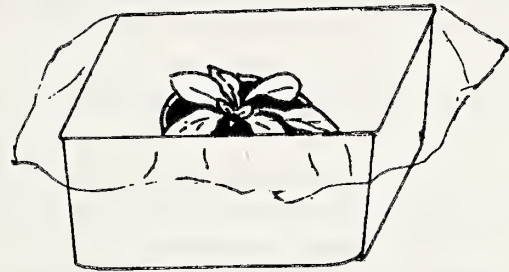


How do you care for it so that it will thrive and grow into a large flowering plant?

Here are some points to head you in the right direction. We assume you have placed a wick in the pot. If not, you need to do so.

1. Water your baby with a weak solution of plant starter (a hormone preparation to stimulate root growth).
2. Place in a warm position with bright natural light, or on a light stand.
3. After a few days, if all is well, wet the wick and place on a reservoir filled with a weak solution of balanced fertilizer. Do not use strong fertilizer solution, as the small root ball may not be able to absorb all the fertilizer salts moving into the potting mix. This would result in crystals forming on the center leaves of the plant, causing fertilizer burn and often destroying the center.
4. Keep an eye on the plant to make sure the wick is working and the potting mix is kept moist. Occasionally, new potting mix does not wet well and the wick does not start working.

5. If your baby develops droopy leaves, remove from the reservoir and place in a "humidicrib". This can be a butter container or similar plastic dish where the plant can sit without touching the sides. Cover loosely with a piece of plastic wrap.



When the plant perks up and looks healthy again, remove the plastic wrap for a few days (making sure the potting mix does not dry out). Then replace on the reservoir and allow plant to grow.

6. After a few weeks, when the plant has started developing new leaves, you may increase the fertilizer strength to that which you use on your other African violets. You may even wish to use a fertilizer with a higher nitrogen content to promote leaf growth. At this stage you may even get a "Baby Smile" – flowers!
7. After a few months, your baby may have outgrown its "crib" and need re-potting. To keep your plant progressing with even growth, it will need potting up to the next size pot when the roots fill the pot. Do not do this if the root ball is still small, as African violets do not like to be surrounded by a large amount of wet soil.

*From the Newsletter of the  
Early Morn AV Group, Australia & New Zealand*

# Lights

by Sheila & Bernie Walton

For the purpose of this discussion, it is assumed that all other growing factors have been adjusted to suit your particular situation, ie. temperature, water, fertilizer and potting mix.

## **Why do we need light for our African violets?**

If there is insufficient light, our plants will fail to grow and bloom well. Lack of light is the most common reason for lack of flowers. Light energy is also needed for the plant to produce sugars and oxygen.

## **What's wrong with natural light?**

Nothing. Provided it is bright enough and there is a sufficient amount of it. Because we cannot control the amount of sunshine, or the hours of daylight in the winter, we cannot control the light our plants get naturally. This doesn't mean you can't grow beautiful African violets, but you can have more control by using fluorescent lights.

**What differences are seen between too much light and not enough?** Leaves that need more light will have longer petioles, smaller leaves, and will probably stretch up to the light source, rather than lying in a flat, symmetrical pattern. If there is too much light, the leaves may look bleached or burned, the center could look tight.

**What are the benefits of fluorescent lights?** The most obvious is probably the extra flowers the plant can produce. The growth will be more compact and less leggy looking. Symmetry will be improved due to the evenness of the light. Lights help in the control of temperature. Although fluorescent lights are not as hot as incandescent lights, they do provide some warmth. Space which may not be light enough for natural light growing can be used. It can also help in knowing when your plants will be in flower, such as in time for the show or any other event you may require them to be in bloom.

**What's special about fluorescent lights?** I am not a technical person, so I will not try and explain to you something with which I am not familiar. What I can say is that different spectrums of light are needed to grow good African violets. Violet, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, Red and Far Red are the colour spectrums involved. Blue/red rays are the most influential in plant growth and flowering. The most commonly used tubes are Cool White and Gro-lux Wide Spectrum.

## **How often do you need to change the light bulbs?**

This is a matter for a personal choice. Some growers only replace tubes when they stop working. Others replace when the ends start to darken, and others will renew regularly regardless of the state of the tube. Some growers change to new bulbs in their Countdown Schedule for the show. As new bulbs emit stronger light, it is advisable to change one at a time, so the plants do not suffer from a sudden burst of stronger light.

## **How do I provide lights for my plants?**

Depending on your conditions and space available, you may choose to suspend a fluorescent fixture from the ceiling, above

a shelf or suitable piece of furniture that is already in place. You may want to use an alcove that you have. The most common form is a light stand. This is usually a purpose-built stand of three or four shelves with light fittings attached. Some have a double light fixture in the centre of the shelves, others have two single light fittings which spread the light more evenly over the whole surface area of the shelf.

The stands can be made of wood although this can make them rather heavy and awkward to move if necessary. Stands have been made using PVC tubing; the most common seems to be the tubular aluminum. You may want your plant stand to stay in one place, but it can be beneficial to have it on castors, then if it does need to be moved, it will be a lot easier. The light fixtures seem to be the most expensive part of the set-up. A timer is a worth-while investment as it controls the timing of the lights, saving you the bother of trying to remember to turn them on and off at specific times. There are a couple of plans for building a light stand, which anyone can have. Before you build, do think carefully. Are you a relatively practical handy person who could build the stand? If not, do you know someone who is? There are many little things that are obvious to some and completely alien to others; in particular when it comes to cutting things to size! Where is your stand going to be? How big is the space available for it? Do you have a power point nearby? Are you making the most of the space available to you? Would you be able to cope with an extra shelf on top of the stand for propagating? Would you need a shelf less, because you don't want or need the stand to be so high? Are you able to have the shelves as wide as the plan? Or is your available space not big enough for that? Will there be adequate air circulation around the stand? Lack of air circulation can easily lead to powdery mildew.

**How much light should my plants have?** Most plants require 12-14 hours per day, standard plants will be approximately 10"-12" from the lights. However, before you rush all your plants under the spotlight, be warned! If they have been growing in natural light up to now, a sudden 12-14 hours of bright light a day could easily cause damage. You wouldn't take someone from the depths of a cold, snowy winter and suddenly expose them to 8 hours sunbathing on a hot summer's day!

Your plants will need to be introduced slowly. Depending on how bright their light source has been, start off with a few hours at a time and gradually build up over several weeks. The more you grow, the more you learn, and you may find that plants need to be closer or further away from the lights depending on the hybridizer. Because all growers have slightly different conditions, what works best for one person may not necessarily work best for you and your conditions, SO be prepared to experiment and learn.

*From the Newsletter of the  
Early Morn AV Group, Australia & New Zealand*

# GROWING AND GROOMING AFRICAN VIOLETS

## DAILY CARE OF PLANTS

Growers of blue ribbon plants look at their plants every day. Few plants require care every day, but a second for a quick look, is sometimes all that separates the green thumb growers from the brown.

Give plants enough room for good air circulation and space to grow. The leaves of one plant should not touch, or rest on, the leaves of another plant. Keeping plants separated prevents leaves from becoming bent out of shape and reduces the spreading of pests and diseases. Another way to reduce the chance of spreading pests and diseases is to keep new plants under observation and separated from the rest of the collection for a month to six weeks.

Turn a plant regularly to promote good symmetry. If a leaf starts growing out of position, gradually, gently move it to its proper place, holding it there with a round toothpick or a plant stake. Supports may be used under the foliage to train the plant to grow flat. When a plant enters a show, all picks, props, and supports must be removed. Because removing supports can cause a plant's leaves to droop, prize winning growers remove supports and props well ahead of a show or do not use any supports at all.

African violets don't just happen to grow to be show plants. People looking at African violets at a show may think of a prize winning plant as one loaded with blossoms and do not consider the rest of the plant that makes those blossoms possible.

Cultivars have different requirements and the same variety of African violet may differ in appearance because of the environment in which it is grown or the care that it gets.

Growing a blue ribbon plant starts with the selection of a suitable plant and continues until the plant is entered in a show.

## SELECTING A SHOW PLANT

Some African violets make better show plants than others. Some varieties are interesting to grow but will never shape up for a show. Many experienced African violet growers use the lists of plants that were Best-in-Show as a guide for selecting varieties to grow for a show.

Select a sturdy plant showing four or more leaves with symmetrical growth. If buying starter plants, select small plants with a good growth habit.

## POTS

Any shape of pot is permitted for specimen entries in AVSA shows. Clay or plastic pots will both give good results. However, if growing a number of plants it's better to keep the clay and plastic pots separated since plants in the two types will need different watering schedules.

**Clay pots:** Clay pots are heavier and porous. Plants in them need to be watered more frequently. New clay pots should be soaked in water before they are used, or they will absorb the moisture from the potting mix. The roots stay cooler in summer in a clay pot. Because they dry out faster, clay pots are used by some growers for starting plants. The rims of clay pots should be coated to protect the petioles from mineral-salts buildup that forms a rough edge on the pot. Aluminum foil covering the top edge of the pot works well. Paraffin is not recommended, since the pot will often mold under the paraffin spoiling its appearance. Before reusing a clay pot, scrape off the soluble salts, soak it overnight in soapy water to loosen the dirt, scrub, rinse, and soak overnight in a sterilizing solution of one cup of household bleach to a gallon of water. Rinse with fresh water.

**Plastic pots:** Plastic pots are lighter, less expensive, and easier to keep clean. Plants in them need to be watered less frequently because the moisture does not evaporate as fast. Before reusing plastic pots scrape off soluble salts, soak pots for a couple hours in soapy water to loosen the dirt, scrub, rinse, and soak for ten minutes in a sterilizing solution of one cup of household bleach to one gallon of water. Rinse with fresh water.

**Other containers:** If they are porous treat them like clay pots, if they are not, treat them like plastic pots. Self-watering containers will keep the plant moist as long as there is water in the reservoir. Watch self-watering containers to make sure they do not provide too much water which might cause plants to rot.



# A MITE SUSPICIOUS

by Libby Watkins  
Bloomington, IL

While strolling by your violet plant stands one day, you suddenly spot a plant with a funny looking center, WOW! What if it's mites? The whole collection could get it! But, wait a minute, look a little closer. Does the plant have a twisted, brittle, or stunted center with curled leaves? Do any of the plants around this one look the same way? Check the other shelves. Find any others? Before becoming a spray-a-holic, consider some of the other things which might cause symptoms similar to these.

One of the most common causes might be too much fertilizer or fertilizer salt build-up. When the soil mix in a pot becomes congested with too much debris which the plant cannot use efficiently, the plant cannot grow normally, so you end up with distortion of one kind or another. Leaching the plant with clear water several times will help on a temporary basis. Changing the soil is the best way to deal with this problem. Make sure your plant is not getting too much fertilizer. Cut back on the amount of fertilizer you are using. Never fertilize a dry plant. Fertilize while the soil is damp so the plants can use the plant food more efficiently.

An acid soil pH also produces symptoms similar to mites. Test your soil mix with a pH testing kit or meter. Make the necessary adjustments to your soil mix to correct this problem. Adding dolomite lime to your mix will usually take care of the acidity. You may have to repot your plants if they are badly affected.

Another common problem causing distortion in African violets is too much light. This will cause plants to become tight centered with twisted and bleached or pale-colored leaves. Being too close to the lights will cause this, and changing both tubes on your fixture at the same time could also cause this condition. Make sure you do not burn your lights too many hours, and replace only one tube in the fixture at a time. Know your varieties. Some plants need less light than others. Arrange them accordingly on your plant stands to meet their needs.

Another thing that all of us have to watch, especially in the winter, is cold temperatures. Drafty basements and stands too close to windows can cause problems, including spotted leaves and wilting. Air conditioning vents in the summer might be blowing directly on your plants. Check to see if there is a potential problem. Keep your plant stands away from windows with temperatures that may be too hot or cold.

After eliminating all of these possible causes, if you still think you might have mites, look up an agricultural extension office near you. Take an affected plant to have it analyzed for mites. Mites are microscopic, and can be seen only with a microscope. These people can tell you for sure if you truly have an infestation of mites. If you do, there are miticides available at garden center shops which work quite well. Read the label on the bottle carefully to see if it can be used on violets and also for spray use directions. A drop of liquid dish soap with the spray mix makes the spray stick better and is harmless to the plants. You may have to spray more than once. Follow the bottle directions carefully. Be sure your plant lights are off when spraying so plants will not become spotted. Let the plants dry thoroughly. Use adequate ventilation and make sure the dogs, cats, and kids are not around when you spray. Wear gloves and a mask. Wash off all materials used with soap and water when you are finished. The plants should start to grow out normally in a few weeks. They will most likely have to be groomed, maybe even repotted to make them look good again. If this fails, take a cutting and start a new plant.

If you are an outdoor gardener, be careful about bringing pests into the house. Clothing that has been outdoors and around other plants could have mites, aphids, thrips, mealy bugs, catching a ride inside. Even your dog or cat can carry these pests indoors on their fur. Keep your hands, utensils, and working space clean, and you are sure to have beautiful African violets forever.





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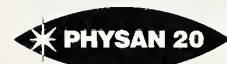
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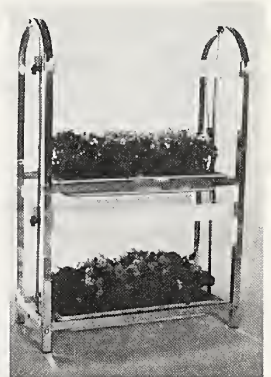
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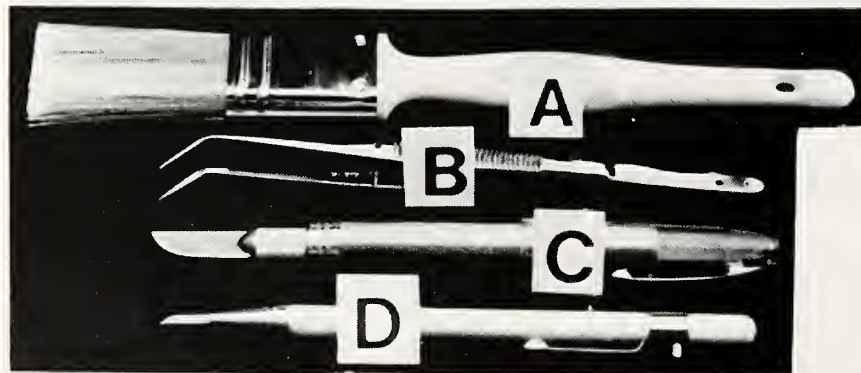
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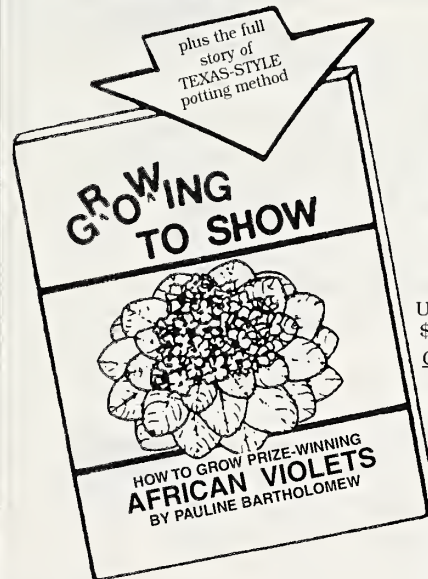
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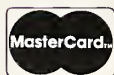
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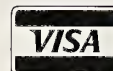
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# African Violet

*The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

September • October 2001

Volume 54

Number 5



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**JUDGING SCHOOL:** To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

**LIBRARY:** Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ann Nicholas, 3113 Deerfield Dr., Denton, TX 76208-3428.

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**ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS:** Send to Editor.

**Please Note: Deadlines** - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

**Coming Events Deadlines:** - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. judycart@flash.net

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**PLANT REGISTRATION:** Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

**RESEARCH:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

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**QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING:** Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

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# African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

September • October

Volume 54

Number 5

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**Aca's Summer Parfait**  
Best New Cultivar  
2001 AVSA National Show  
Hybridized by:  
**John Brownlie**  
Aca's Violet-Tree  
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretzky

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

# President's Message

SMITHSONIAN

OCT 15 2001

LIBRARIES



Dear AVSA Members,

Summer is over, and we are now renewing our African violet activities. Affiliate clubs will have their first meeting after the summer break. Many will have elections that bring new leadership and ideas to their groups. Now is the time to tell everyone about that great idea you had for a program. You will also have new members in attendance. Are you making them feel welcome and part of the group? Do you have a program that will keep their interest and insure they return to next month's meeting? Each of us has a responsibility to our group to be an active, responsible member.



Don't forget to keep the AVSA office and our Affiliate Chairperson, Bev Promersberger, informed of current officers and their addresses. From time-to-time they send out information for the clubs, and we want to make sure it reaches the proper person in each affiliate.

Our commercial and amateur hybridizers work very hard to provide us with new and exciting varieties each year. Let them know we appreciate their work. Also, please let them know you saw their advertisements in the African Violet Magazine.

Pat and I will be attending the Ohio State Show and Convention in Mansfield, Ohio, on October 5-6 and the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Show and Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina, on November 8-10. We hope to see many of you. Check out the coming events area on the AVSA website at <http://www.avsa.org> for a fall show near you.

We always welcome ideas and input from all our AVSA members. For instance, you may have an idea to improve the many services AVSA provides its members. Please send your ideas to the AVSA office, Board Members, or to me. Do you have an idea for an article in the AVM? Send your articles or topic ideas to our Editor.

Bill Lyons, with much help from his wife, Kay, heads the Booster Fund. The Booster Fund is AVSA's only non-restricted voluntary fund, meaning we can use the money as needed.

The Booster Fund was established in 1968. Our membership costs were \$4.00, and AVSA didn't have sufficient funding to support the growing services it provided the membership. 2001 is no different. We continue to improve our services and upgrade our capabilities in the AVSA office. The Booster Fund has allowed us to do this. Bill and his committee have provided the funding that includes a lap-top computer for use at the national conventions, a FAX for the AVSA office, new upgraded computers, and a very much-needed new copy machine. Bill's latest effort is to secure the funding for the preservation of AVSA plant registration forms.

Bill is one of many committee chairpersons who make AVSA possible. Without their dedicated, behind the scenes work, we would not be able to function. To all you great folks, we thank you.

An area that concerns each AVSA member is membership. Nancy Hayes, our Membership and Promotion Chairperson and her committee, are brainstorming some innovative ideas to help membership. If you have had success in recruiting new members, let us know how you were successful. We need to increase membership so we can continue to improve our services to you, the membership.

I do want each affiliate to become more proactive toward increasing our membership rolls. I would like each affiliate to get seven new AVSA members. If each affiliate does this, we will have over 2,000 new members for AVSA. Let me know when your group gets seven or more new AVSA members. I'll give you a mention in my next President's letter.

Pat and I recently hosted the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges meeting. Along with the Mid-Atlantic AVS, they are sponsoring next year's convention in the Washington, DC area. They are working toward making this a convention to remember.

For those of you who have never visited the Washington, DC area, you are in for a real treat. My youngest daughter and three grandsons visited recently, and the boys wanted to see the Reflecting Pool. We visited many other notable sights: the Washington Monument, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the White House and Capitol, and some Smithsonian exhibits. I still get "goose bumps" when I go downtown and remember what all of DC represents to the rest of the world.

Plan on joining us next May in DC. The AVSA Convention and a vacation can be combined for one great time.

Sincerely,

John E. (Jack) Wilson  
AVSA President



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email [rurumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rurumsey@earthlink.net)

Many of you go out of your way to share the joy of growing African violets, and in the process, promote AVSA.

My dear friend, **Agatha Garrison**, of New Mexico is always happy to spread the word about her hobby.

Recently, while giving the children's sermon at her Methodist church, Agatha touched on scripture to demonstrate the beauty of plants and the gift they are to all. Explaining that her hobby was growing African violets, Agatha gave a brief history, told where African violets came from, and the joy she has found in growing them.

Each of the children received a plant and in turn, Miss Agatha received a hug and a thank you. She felt that it was a successful sermon.

Afterwards, she was surprised when so many of the adults came forward, wanting to know if she had African violets that she would sell. One lady wanted help with a plant she had at home, and a couple followed her out to the car, asking more questions about the origin of African violets.

Knowing Agatha, I suspect that before long we'll have a few new members from New Mexico!

I recently heard from **Judi Criswell**, a member of the AVS of Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Judi wanted to let us know about her friend, **Jean Kaplan**, who is ninety-five years old and a very active, valuable member of AVS of Springfield. An avid grower who also contributes to the club in many other ways, Jean won 2nd Best in Show last year, and won nine blue ribbons and two Best in Class awards at the club's 2001 show. (See a photo of Jean on page 45.)

I love sharing articles from **Rob and Olive Ma Robinson's** *VioletsFun Photo Journal*. These champion growers have provided the AVM with many informative articles. On page 52, please read "Basic Culture and Growing Violets the Brownlie Way". This article is a compilation of Rob's notes from a talk the Brownlies gave to the AVS of Western New York.

**John and Doris Brownlie** of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, were the recipients of the AVSA Bronze Medal Award in 2000 for achievements in hybridizing.

To learn more about subscribing to the *VioletsFun Photo Journal*, see the ad on page 62.

Another fine publication presenting a wealth of AV information is "*African Violet and Gesneriad News*", published by our good friend **John Beaulieu** in Canada. To subscribe, see John's ad on page 58.

One of our new advertisers in last month's AVM, **Smith's Country Cottage African Violets**, has been having technical problems with their website and was unable to have it up when expected. For other information about contacting them, please see the ad on page 63 in the July-August 2001 AVM.

Another new advertiser is **UAreSoBeautiful Note Cards**. AVSA Member, **Charli Yandolino** of New York, wanted to share the beauty of the many African violets she grows in her home. Digital photographs of her plants now grace note cards available through UAreSoBeautiful. See Charli's full page color ad on page 40 in this issue.

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## A MESSAGE TO NOVICE GROWERS by Brenda Pinkstone

I will never forget the first time I summoned up enough courage to exhibit two plants at our club's bimonthly meeting. As I looked at my plants, I could see everything that was wrong with them. The symmetry was not perfect, a few flowers were past their best, and horror, some of the leaves had marks on them! So with great self-doubt, I humbly placed my contributions on the show table and went in to the meeting.

After the meeting, I went out to the show table shocked to discover I had won first and third prize! I tried to look unconcerned, but my chest and head were swelling as I arrived home triumphantly, and my husband insisted on photographing my prize-winning plants. I had arrived!

Each meeting afterward, I went through the same self doubts, but was rewarded with some success each time. I am writing this not to brag, but to encourage other novice growers to give it a go. My success was NOT due to my expertise, but because I had so little competition! Often, I was the only exhibitor in a particular class. Where are the other novice

exhibitors from the fifty or so members at the meetings? I know how they felt. For about two years, I sat in those meetings taking notes, asking questions, and thinking that my plants would never be good enough.

Several years ago, when I summoned up enough courage to exhibit at the Annual Show I thought to myself, "How presumptuous to exhibit at the big show!" But again, I had success. I realized the other novice growers were at the same standard as I was and that I was improving.

So novice growers, don't underestimate yourselves! Give it a go! I also recommend helping with activities where you get to know more experienced members and there will be time to talk to them. They are all so helpful with advice. Growing African violets is a wonderful hobby, and the help and time given to us beginners by all the experienced members is very much appreciated.

*From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group*

# *Certificates of Appreciation*

*Jane Rexilius*

Each year the Board of Directors and the Publications Committee select the five best articles published in the African Violet Magazine.

The winners are awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their contribution to the AVM, which are awarded at the annual AVSA convention.

They are also presented with a one year subscription to the AVM to be given to a non-AVSA member. The winners presented at the 2001 AVSA convention in Chicago are:

Linda Golubski - Missouri

Velma Lewis - Texas

Barbara Pershing - Iowa

Edna Rourke - Connecticut

Mary Stallings - Texas

Congratulations to each of you!

## **Why Cull?**

by Margaret Taylor

Why, indeed?

Most African Violet growers find, at some stage, an overwhelming number of plants in their collection. Today, so many "must have" varieties are available and difficult to pass up. Added to this, the ease of propagation and multiplication quickly develops into a population explosion.

How many of us can save only one plantlet off a clump? At the very least, "a pair and a spare" may be more usual (and then some).

Much extra work in the general care of grooming, repotting and keeping up the water supply is involved if standards are to be maintained. African violets will not grow well if they are overcrowded. They will either reach for the sky, or develop bunched-up tight centers. "No touch" spacing on the shelves is necessary for air circulation and to minimize the spread of pests and diseases.

Now and again, it is a good idea to take stock and ruthlessly discard any plant which is sub-standard, passed its "use by" date, or will not grow nicely for you. The shy bloomers may be given verbal notice to perform or be sent to violet heaven. They probably do not warrant the space they need to sit and sulk.

Sometimes, a compulsory cull is unavoidable when mites or soil mealy bugs are running rampant. This is an unfortunate situation, but may be a blessing in disguise.

No point in treating sick plants and allowing them to remain with the rest of the collection, or you may just be prolonging the agony of disease control. Look at the spaces you can create by saving a leaf, sterilizing it, and disposing of the remainder of the plant. In due course, you will have many pots of plantlets awaiting division. A strong will is needed here or you may once again be able to identify with the old woman who lived in a shoe.

Spring and autumn are the ideal times to repot; also a good time to cull. As you handle each plant, you can do a stern appraisal. It may help to develop a philosophy of "when in doubt throw it out". Much as we would like, it simply is not practicable to grow them all.

Those of us who are hybridizing know full well that most seedlings have to be discarded on first flowering. Some plants change their nature according to maturity and seasonal changes, so some seedlings must be allowed to stay until such time as this is known. If you could not bring yourself to cull with total objectivity, hybridizing would be likely to produce far too many problems for you.

Just as spring cleaning the home is a necessary chore, it's a wonderful feeling when it is done. Likewise, with our violets, a good culling session will be most satisfying, for a couple of weeks, at least.

Happy growing (and culling).

# Question Box



**Ralph Robinson**  
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Naples, NY 14512  
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**Dorothy Kosowsky**  
712 Cunningham Dr.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
*email: dot3joe@earthlink.net*

Olive and I just returned from the most recent AVSA Convention show in Chicago. There were plenty of beautiful plants in the show (nearly 1,000 of them) and the salesroom. Having sold so many plants through the spring, we didn't have as many to bring to the show for sale. Of course, this meant we had more room for show plants. Our minivan was full. So full, that we had to leave a box or two at home. With the car's odometer having passed 100,000 miles earlier this year, it's about time we start looking for something new.....and bigger.

We'll be at a couple of shows this fall that you might consider attending yourself if convenient. The first is the Ohio State AVS Convention Show, held at the Kingwood Center in Mansfield, Ohio, from October 4 to 7. For more information, contact Mary Martin at [mmartin@nhraw.org](mailto:mmartin@nhraw.org) or call us. The second is the annual Convention Show of the Mid-Atlantic AVS, held November 8-10, in Raleigh, North Carolina. For more information about this show, contact Libbie Glembocki at [Libbie@attglobal.net](mailto:Libbie@attglobal.net) or Linda Abplanalp at [bilans@netpath.net](mailto:bilans@netpath.net) or call us. Both shows are well worth attending. We enter and sell at both. Stop by and say hello if you decide to come.

As is always the case, we are far too busy to reply to mail (or e-mail), though we do read all of it. Should you want a personal reply, we are more than willing to answer phone calls made during our normal business hours (12-5 pm EST), since we can work and talk at the same time. For those with access to the internet, we can be reached at [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com) or via our web-site at [www.robsviolet.com](http://www.robsviolet.com) <<http://www.robsviolet.com/>>. The web-site also contains a wealth of cultural information.

**QUESTION:** *I'm having trouble getting my leaf cuttings to root. They either dry up or rot before producing plantlets. I'm thinking of using rooting hormone. Any suggestions?*

**ANSWER:** This is a problem very common to growers new to the hobby. African violets are actually quite easy to propagate by leaf cuttings, much easier than are many other plants. Given a chance to, leaves will root and produce

plantlets - the trick is keeping the cutting healthy and fresh until the time that it begins to produce roots and can sustain itself and the plantlets it will produce. It's just a matter of providing it with the proper environment. Rooting hormones are best used on woody, difficult to root, plant material. African violets are neither of these, and since they are tender, soft-tissued plants, using rooting hormones are more likely to burn or damage leaf tissues.

We suggest rooting leaves in a very loose, porous medium, similar to the type of soil mix that one might use if constant-watering their plants (ours is 75% coarse vermiculite, 20% peat, and 5% perlite, with a bit of charcoal added). Ideally, this medium should be kept thoroughly moist, but not soggy. We also suggest keeping cuttings enclosed in some sort of clear, covered, container: a sealed sandwich baggie for one or two cuttings or a plastic shoe box for many. The closed container means that the medium won't go dry - a common cause of losing cuttings when grown in the open without cover. It's just too difficult to keep the soil evenly moist all of the time. Further, before it can produce roots, the cutting has no means to replenish moisture lost from its tissues. Keeping it in an enclosed, high humidity environment prevents this from happening. Being kept in an enclosed space, it only needs to be moist, since there will be sufficient humidity to keep the cutting fresh. If the rooting medium is too soggy, leaves will tend to rot. Again, moist but not soggy. Until the cutting develops roots, it has no means of using that much water. Until it produces plantlets, it has no need for that much water.

**QUESTION:** *I'd like to grow some violets on my kitchen countertop. It's a large space with thirteen florescent light bulbs (15 watts each) about 15" above the countertop. Is this going to be enough light?*

**ANSWER:** This was e-mailed to us recently from one of our customers. I suspect that it is, but without seeing the space personally, and not knowing all of the other environmental factors that come into play, it's hard to give a definitive answer. Without being experts in the field, we can only give some general guidelines based upon our own experience. Most

growers using artificial light use two forty watt florescent bulbs over a space usually about two feet by four feet in size. We grow miniature violets about 10-11" below, and standards about 18" below the bulbs. Lights are left on for thirteen hours a day. Using some simple math, this means about ten watts per square foot of space for this duration of time would be sufficient, giving miniatures more light than standards.

Using the above information as a guideline, for this particular grower, there is enough light being produced to cover an area of nearly twenty square feet ( $[13 \times 15] / 10$ ). Of course, there are trade-offs that can be made. Less light would be needed if there is supplemental light (i.e. a nearby window) in the area, lights are left on for a longer duration, or plants are grown closer to the light. More light would be needed if the opposite were true. Finally, there might also be differences in the particular bulbs being used (some are more efficient at producing light), their age (light intensity decreases with age) and placement under the bulbs (light intensity is less on bulb ends), among other factors. Nevertheless, the above guidelines provide a starting point. From there, your plants will tell you what adjustments need to be made.

**QUESTION:** *I'm growing some violets for show, using a high phosphorus fertilizer to promote bloom, but my plants are just sitting there, not seeming to grow much.*

**ANSWER:** Personally, we use "balanced" fertilizers with approximately equal proportions of the acronutrients nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. High phosphorus (the middle number in the formula) fertilizers generally are used to promote rapid blooming and strong root development. This is true, especially when used occasionally, or as a supplement to more balanced formulas. This is what many exhibitors do when growing show plants, using a balanced formula as the regular fertilizer, then switching to higher phosphorus formulas as the show approaches – after the plant has fully developed, disbudding has ceased, and heavy blooming is needed.

When using high phosphorus fertilizers as a regular diet, however, the plant lacks the necessary nitrogen to develop to its full potential. This is something we've had personal experience with, having experimented with such fertilizers in the past. When only given such fertilizers, standard-size varieties, which would normally grow several inches larger, would stop growing at only 6-8" in diameter. Foliage would also lack the thick, succulent, dark look that they have when given a more balanced diet. It's also not true that variegated varieties require more phosphorus and less nitrogen. Variegation is much more determined by temperature – there will be more of it when temperatures are lower. Withholding nitrogen from a plant's diet won't make it any more variegated, it just means that the green portions of the leaves will be a paler, grayish-green, rather than a lush, dark green.

**QUESTION:** *The examples of your violets in the magazine show the foliage of the plants to have settled. The foliage on my violet has not settled and I'm curious to know why.*

**ANSWER:** I assume that "settled" means that the foliage lays flat, horizontally, around the plant, rather than growing upwards. There are three likely reasons for foliage that doesn't lay flat, or "settle". First, it is possible that the violet is not receiving enough light, and the leaves are simply "reaching" towards what little is available. If the plant is otherwise healthy, kept free of suckers and extra crowns, yet its foliage doesn't lay flat and it doesn't bloom, this is likely the problem.

Another common reason that foliage doesn't lay flat is that it hasn't the room to because of overcrowding. This is a problem common to many growers. We all want to grow more plants than we have room for, growing them crowded together in a space too small for all of them. Since no two objects can occupy the same space, and neighboring plants are forced to compete for available light, of course the foliage will tend to grow upwards rather than flat.

Lastly, like many things, the cause may simply be genetic. Some varieties simply refuse to grow in a nice, flat, rosette even under the most ideal conditions. Unless these plants have qualities that make them outstanding in some other way, we generally don't bother to grow them.

**QUESTION:** *I recently purchased a tiny violet from you. It's very pretty, but it's still growing in the little plastic cup that it came in. The smallest pots that I can find in stores are at least 1 inch wider than the plant. I heard that if African violets are in big pots, they won't bloom. Where can I find those tiny pots?*

**ANSWER:** It is true that violets don't like to be in pots that are overly large. By this, we mean pots that are much larger than their root system. This means that minis and semiminis generally need no larger than 2" to 2 1/2" pots, while standard varieties are quite happy in 4" pots (unless grown as larger show plants). The tiny "cups" that this person is referring to are, in fact, Solo Cups! These are the 3 oz. plastic bathroom drinking cups that are available at most grocery stores. They are equivalent to a 2" standard pot-being both 2" in diameter and 2" in depth. Though not as heavy a plastic as traditional pots, they do have a number of advantages - a smooth, rolled edge, flat bottoms, and much lower cost. You do have to make a drainage hole in the bottom (which we do by drilling through a stack of them), but they are as good as the "real thing" in most ways. Though many semiminis will eventually outgrow them, most miniatures are more than happy to spend their lifetime in a 2" pot, and when you use them by the tens of thousands as we do, the few cents difference in price for each pot adds up to a significant amount of money!



# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
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One of the main reasons for growing African violets is for the flowers. Over the years, a number of genetic mutations have occurred that have produced the various flower colors and patterns. The inheritance pattern of many of these traits are well understood and a summary list is reprinted in this column. Hybridizers can use dominant/recessive cross patterns that were printed in last issue to plan and predict the flower types and colors of their crosses.

## Dominant

Violet Shape  
Geneva Edges  
Raspberry Edges  
Fringed Edges  
Fantasy Pattern  
Double Flowers  
Pale Color shades  
Blue Flowers  
Red Flowers  
Non-Coral Colors  
Mottled Flowers  
Thumbprint Pattern

## Recessive

Star Shape  
Solid Edges  
Non-fringed Edges  
Solid Flowers  
Single Flowers  
Dark Color shades  
All other colors  
Pink, White  
Coral colors  
Non-mottled flowers  
Solid Colored Flowers

**Q:** *If fantasy pattern is a genetic dominant and coral color is a recessive, is it possible to get fantasy flowers in coral colors?*

**A:** Yes, it is possible to get coral fantasy flowers because the trait for flower color (coral shades) is independent of the trait for pattern (fantasy). Even though genetically, one trait is the recessive of its type (coral shades are recessive to non-coral shades) and the second is a dominant (fantasy is dominant to

non-fantasy). They can combine together to produce fantasy patterns in coral shade colors.

**Q:** *Why is leaf variegation considered to be a "mistake" in African violets when in other plant species the variegation is said to be "natural"?*

**A:** The difference is whether plants collected from the native habitats have variegation or not. If the wild collected plants are variegated, then this trait is said to be part of the original or "wild type" characteristics. African violets collected in nature always have solid green leaves. Therefore, variegation is not part of their original genetic makeup and must have originated as a "mistake" or mutation in their DNA. This mistake has occurred at least three times, giving us the three different styles of leaf variegation (Tommie Lou, Crown, and Mosaic).

**Q:** *How would I develop a trailer with red flowers starting with the species plant *Saintpaulia grottei*?*

**A:** This cross would repeat the historical cross by Frank and Anne Tinari that gave rise to our first trailing plants. I'd suggest crossing *S. grottei* with a good red flowered plant with semi-double flowers. The first generation plants will have minimal trailing habit and blue flowers. Some should have double flowers as this trait is a genetic dominant. Cross two good F1 seedlings together, or self-pollinate your best offspring. Use a F1 plant with semi-double or double flowers to maintain this character. About 25% of the F2 generation plants will have red flowers. The trailing habit will be reduced as compared to *S. grottei*, but some of the offspring should have a bunch style type of trailing.



From this point, you may wish to cross your best F2 seedling with a pink flowered trailer. The red flower color would be dominant to pink and the use of a trailer should improve the trailing habits of the next generation. Unless you have your heart set on starting with *S. grotei*, this same cross would also be the fastest way to produce a red flowered trailer because you would avoid the dominant blue flower color.

**Q:** *Is it true that a hybridizer must re-cross their plants several generations for genetic stability before releasing them to the public?*

**A:** Crossing offspring together repeatedly for several generations is a form of inbreeding. This breeding system tends to make the traits of the offspring uniform (genetic homozygotes) so that eventually the offspring breed true to type from seed. However, African violets are usually reproduced from leaf cuttings rather than from seed. This is a form of asexual reproduction instead of sexual reproduction. I am not aware of any scientific proof that inbreeding improves the genetic stability of an asexually reproduced plant. Therefore, I do not see a value or need to inbreed plants sexually when they are normally reproduced asexually.

Genetic stability in asexual reproduction is a different matter and is important in African violets. The accepted test for genetic stability is to put down leaves from the original plant (the 1st generation) and get plantlets of the second generation. When these plants are large enough, leaves are put down for the 3rd generation. When all three generations

mature, there should not be any differences between them. Plants that show stability for at least three generations are considered suitable for public release.

**Q:** *When making a cross, does it make a difference which parent is used as the seed parent and which is used as the pollen parent?*

**A:** In most cases, the answer to this question is "no". For traits such as flower color, leaf type and most others, the genetic information is contributed to the next generation from both parents. The sperm contains half the genetic information; the egg the other half. It does not matter which sex cell transmitted the trait when it is expressed in the offspring.

A few genetic traits, specifically Tommie Lou and Crown variegation types are only transmitted to the offspring through the egg cells. The sperm do not carry the trait. Therefore, you must use a variegated plant as the seed parent in order to produce variegated offspring. Traits that are only transmitted through the female parent are said to have "maternal" inheritance.

Mosaic variegation is a partial exception to this pattern. While the genetic trait for this variegation type is transmitted as a recessive trait from both parents, it can only be expressed if the seed parent is descendent maternally from a mosaic variegated ancestor. This unusual combination of both inheritance patterns is one of the reasons why mosaic variegation has been so difficult for hybridizers to work with.

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Donations received February 1, 2001 - June 30, 2001

Helen Blanton • 622 Riverside Dr. • St. Charles, MO 63304

Arnold W. Mueller, Vista, CA	\$ 50.00	Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE	\$ 5.00	Suzanne Melson, Hamton, VA	\$10.00
Mary R. Parker, Sandy, OR	5.00	Capital City AVS, Cameron Park, CA	25.00	Carol Allegretti, Woodstock, IL	20.00
Ann Wang, Santa Paula, CA	5.00	Elizabeth Roth, Wallingford, PA	5.00	Geneva Stagg, Germantown, TN	7.00
Julia Woessner, Charleston, SC	5.00	Arno Teller, Sr., Milwaukee, WI	15.00	Doris Acree, McKenzie, TN	5.00
Ralph A. Mancusi, Orange Park, FL	3.00	Frank Barthel, Syracuse, NY	5.00	Tracy Burlison, Columbia, SC	5.00
Lois C. Foger, Liberal, MO	5.00	Eileen Stannard, Leesville, LA	10.00	James Welch, San Leandro, CA	15.00
Marion Martin, Westfield, NJ	5.00	Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD	5.00	Vivian Horak, Naples, FL	5.00
Edwin Schrag, Freeman, SD	10.00	DiDi King, Phoenix, AZ	2.00	Nancy Di Paola, West Covina, CA	5.00
Corky Reichmann, Fairbanks, AK	5.00	Peter Thompson, Syracuse, NY	1.00	Earl Smoyer, Allentown, PA	5.00
Barbara Werness, Coon Rapids, MN	5.00	Judith Clendenin, Menlo Park, CA	20.00	Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR	3.00
Robert Kurzynski, Clifton, NJ	5.00	Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN	10.00	Joy Tallant, Albuquerque, NM	5.00
Joan Armer, Grass Valley, CA	17.00	Cecelia Seidel, Hayward, CA	5.00	Chris Gauthier, Coeur D Alene, ID	3.00
Eileen A. Wilson, Staten Island, NY	25.00	Amethyst AVS, St. Louis, MO	10.00	Frances Forbes, Stockbridge, GA	5.00
Renee Victor, Teaneck, NJ	5.00	Oshkosh Violet Society, Omro, WI	50.00	Geneva Mayo, Pulaski, TN	5.00
Lorna Mae Mendes, Cameron Park, CA	10.00	Felicia Wdowiak, Durham, NC	20.00	Rosemary Miller, Jasonville, IN	2.00
Alberta Yazidjian, Brooklyn, NY	10.00	Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA	4.00	Donna Mosher, Grove City, OH	20.00
Jeanne D'arc Brault, Brome Lake, Canada	5.50	Bill Camper, Blacksburg, VA	10.00	Juanita Dash, Freeport, NY	2.00
Faye Wieditz, Wichita, KS	10.00	Dorothy Pekel, Brookfield, WI	10.00	AVS of Pensacola, Cantonment, FL	1.00
AVS of Minnesota, Saint Paul, MN	15.00	William Moeller, Electra, TX	10.00	Jeanne Senay, Des Peres, MO	5.00
Eleanor Mattaliano, Tinton Falls, NJ	10.00	Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL	5.00	H. B. Maddox, Sequim, WA	10.00
Onalee McEwen, Houston, TX	5.00	Susan Rutkowski, Livonia, MI	10.00	Office Violets and Lunch, Houston, TX	10.00
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council, St. Louis, MO	20.00	Richard Jarrett, Rochester, PA	6.00	Anita McCreary, Middleburg, FL	3.00
Tristate AV Council, Bordentown, NJ	25.00	Doris Shaw, Adelphi, MD	10.00	Margaret Easches & Helen Magill, Florissant, MO	20.00
Lois Szostak, Garden City, NY	5.00	Charles Black, Montgomery, AL	10.00	<i>in memory of Grace Williams</i>	
Joe and Janice Bruns, Hanover Park, IL	10.00	Ralph Quaintance, Philadelphia, PA	10.00	Nancy Hayes, Bloomfield, CT	30.00
Edward W. Buschke, Morris Plains, NJ	10.00	Stephanie Jeffery, Germantown, MD	10.00	West Texas AVS, Midland, TX	40.00
Smith's Country Cottage AV's, Spencerport, NY	25.00	Mary Lester, Aurora, CO	20.00	<i>in memory of Eric Pickner, Joe Robins, Nancy Geers, and Bill Horgus</i>	
Cynthia Forbes De Correa, Panama	5.00	Janice Sorensen, Englewood, CO	5.00	Bergen County AVS, Tenafly, NJ	5.00
Kachina AV and Supplies, Scottsdale, AZ	1.00	Jean Rogers, New Bedford, MA	3.00	<i>in lieu of judges fee for Les Gugliado</i>	
Kay Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD	10.00	Ellen Brooke, Boyertown, PA	16.50	Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA	45.00
AVS of Denver Chapter 1, Arvada, CO	10.00	Debbie Chastain, Drasco, AR	5.00	<i>in lieu of judges expense for Gary Gordon, Bev Promersberger, and Sue Hoffmann</i>	
Joan McKerr, Northport, NY	10.00	Joan Wilson, Theresa, WI	10.00	Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA	30.00
Karen Plourde, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA	100.00	Raymond Brow, Charlottetown, Canada	1.00	African Violet Society of Beaumont, Beaumont, TX	25.00
Helen Bennett, Graniteville, SC	1.00	Harold Swirsky, Glencoe, IL	25.00	<i>in memory of James Edward Mason</i>	
Doreen Hassan, San Jose, CA	5.00	San Joaquin AVS, Manteca, CA	25.00	Valley AVS, Harlingen, TX	20.00
Gordon Kibbe, Longmeadow, MA	10.00	<i>in memory of Olive Martin</i>		AVSA Convention, Chicago, IL	512.50
Doris Weaver, Stockton, CA	10.00	Barbara Werness, Coon Rapids, MN	10.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1775.50</b>
Robert Harp, Wylie, TX	1.00	Anna Noe, Winthrop, MA	5.00		
Mrs. Albert Koch, Clayton, MO	5.00	Helen Hansen, Silver Spring, MD	10.00		



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## LET THE AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE HELP YOU

### **AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE (AVM)**

One of the fantastic benefits of being a member of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. (AVSA) is the *African Violet Magazine (AVM)* which is published six times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November).

Although the *AVM* is already our favorite magazine, Ruth Rumsey, Editor, is working hard to make it even better. If you are not a member of AVSA yet, please join NOW so you can start receiving your *AVM* as soon as possible.

**We would like to explain just a few of the ways that the *AVM* can make your hobby of growing African violets even more enjoyable.**

### **AFRICAN VIOLETS AREN'T CREATED EQUAL**

African violets aren't created equal. Some varieties are easier to grow, bloom more often, grow more symmetrical, and produce more blooms per stalk than others are. These varieties are perfect for beginners, or even advanced growers, who want gorgeous African violets with plenty of blooms.

For growers who exhibit their African violets in shows, these easy-to-grow varieties can make each show less stressful. No matter how hard you try, some of the more difficult varieties may never win a Blue Ribbon, Best-in-Class, or Best-in-Show award but the easy-to-grow varieties are constantly winning these major awards.

We're not suggesting that you should get rid of any of the

African violets you already have, or that you should grow only easy-to-grow varieties, we're just suggesting that you should add a few of them to the ones you already have so you will be happier with your results.

### **VARIETIES THAT ARE EASY-TO-GROW**

The *AVM* publishes the names of many easy-to-grow varieties in columns, features, commercial ads, and various other locations, along with the color photographs. A good way to determine which ones are definitely easy-to-grow is to look for the names of varieties that keep winning awards over and over again.

The African violets that win often are winning not only because of the growers, but also because the plants are genetically superior. These are the ones that can make your hobby more enjoyable and the *AVM* can supply you with that information.

The "And The Winners Are..." column, as an example, lists the varieties that won major awards at recent African violet shows. Many growers refer to this column to make their "wish list" of the African violets that they would like to own.

"Tally Time", published once a year, is a summary of the varieties that won the greatest number of total awards from state and local shows during the entire year. This is another great source of varieties for a wish list.

"Coming Events" passes along information on African violet events, such as shows, along with the locations and times. Bring your wish list with you whenever you attend a show so you add the names of more award-winning, easy-to-grow African violets.

### **PURCHASING AFRICAN VIOLETS AND SUPPLIES**

For your convenience, the *AVM* publishes the names and locations of commercial growers and clubs that sell African violets and supplies.

AVSA's Commercials, along with their addresses, are published in the September/October *AVM*. Refer to this list to find a commercial in your area. If you can't find one nearby, don't worry. Many commercials ship plants and supplies around the world.

Before you leave on a trip, make plans to visit the commercials in that area. Treat yourself to some new African violets. They also make great "souvenirs" if any of your friends or relatives can pry them away from you.

Be sure to read the commercial ads in the back of each issue of the *AVM*. We don't want you to miss their sales and special offers.

Many AVSA Affiliated Clubs have sales during the year, which are also good sources for African violets and supplies. These events are published in "Coming Events".

Read "Coming Events" before you leave on a trip. While we were in Minneapolis this year, we went to the Lakes Area Violet Growers Show and Sale. We had a wonderful time talking to their members and seeing their beautiful show. Plus Cathy found a semi-miniature that she had been searching for.

When you go to an African violet sale, try to be there when it opens for the best selection. African violets sell out fast at these events.

### **LEARNING HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS**

A tremendous amount of information is in each *AVM* to help you avoid the most common mistakes that beginners, and even advanced growers, make. The columns cover a variety of subjects so there is always something interesting to read about.

The *AVM* also publishes articles by fellow African violet lovers all around the world. These growers share their successes, and even their failures, in articles for your benefit.

Our Editor is constantly searching through other publications for information to share with you. For example, Ruth often reprints articles from state council magazines to provide you with valuable information that you would otherwise probably never hear about.

Besides the wonderful columns, articles, and information from the Editor, many features are published during the year, such as the "Annual Library Message". Films, slide shows, and packets are easy to rent and can teach you how to grow gorgeous African violets and construct stunning designs.

There are also several good books that are available through the *AVM* (see back cover for order form). The

"Growers & Judges Handbook" is extremely helpful to growers at all stages. Besides a short history on African violets and AVSA, it includes valuable information on growing, grooming, propagating, pests and diseases. Even if you don't want to enter a show, by following some of the information and tips in this book, your African violets will be more beautiful.

Another excellent book on the order form is "Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets" by Dr. Charles Cole. This is a great reference book that comes in handy if you need to identify a pest and find out how to control it before a serious problem develops.

One book that we couldn't live without is the "Master Variety List". We look up every new African violet that we get in the MVL. Was it registered as a standard, semiminature, miniature, etc.? Once we know the answer, we can grow it accordingly.

For example, if our new violet is registered as a "standard", we repot it into a pot that is one-third the size of the plant's diameter. (A standard plant with a 1 2-inch diameter is repotted into a 4-inch pot.) If it is a "semi-miniature", we repot it into a 2 1/2-inch, or less, pot so it will stay small.

Joining an AVSA Affiliated Club (see below) is another good way to learn how to grow African violets.

### **AVSA AFFILIATED CLUB MEETINGS**

The *AVM* publishes a list of AVSA Affiliated Clubs, along with their president's address, once a year in the September/October issue. Refer to this list to find a club near you.

It's wonderful to become friends with other growers who love African violets, and it's comforting to know that you have another source for advice if a problem should occur.

### **STARTING AN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB**

If there is not a club in your area, consider starting one. The name of the current AVSA Affiliate Chairman, along with her address, is listed in the inside cover so you can get information on how to organize an AVSA Chapter.

### **AVSA CONVENTIONS**

AVSA members from all over the world look forward to the annual AVSA Convention, which is the most exciting African violet event of the year.

For your convenience, the *AVM* publishes all of the convention and show information, as well as the forms that are needed so you can attend and participate. The *AVM* also publishes future convention dates, as they become available, in the front inside cover.

If you have never attended an AVSA Convention before, you don't know how much fun you are missing! Beginners are especially attracted to the commercial sales room. You will feel like a kid in a candy store because it is always packed with African violet plants and supplies. You will make new friends, drool over gorgeous plants, have fun on tours, learn at presentations and forums, and so much more.

## PROBLEMS

If you ever have a problem, the "Question Box" column is available to answer your questions. Just write or e-mail either of the columnists who will be glad to help you. Both are expert growers who love to share their knowledge with others.

The *AVM* constantly supplies valuable information on what to do if a problem occurs. A recent issue, as an example, has a wonderful Pesticide Chart, which our Editor provided from Dr. Cole, and also information on the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (800-858-7378, nptnace.orst.edu) so you can contact them for free answers to your pesticide-related questions.

Two of the books that we discussed earlier in this column, Dr. Cole's and the *Handbook* can also help you if a problem occurs. Both are excellent at helping you to identify and solve your problem.

Don't forget that you can also ask for advice at an African violet show or club meeting. African violet growers are very friendly and happy to help others.

## IF YOU'RE NOT AN AVSA MEMBER. JOIN NOW

In the 1970's, we joined AVSA. Later, we both became Life Members. Our only regret is that we didn't join sooner.

Although the *AVM* is our favorite benefit of being a member of AVSA, there are so many other fantastic benefits that we couldn't possibly fit them all into this column.

The *AVM* includes an AVSA Membership application in every issue for your convenience. Besides joining AVSA yourself, an AVSA Membership makes a great, unique gift for friends, relatives, neighbors, and co-workers. If you have any questions, call AVSA's Office at 1-800-770-AVSA.

With the *AVM's* help, you can grow gorgeous, blooming African violets that you will be proud of.



# African Violet Forums on the Internet

by Vicky Holycross

Soon after being bitten by the African violet bug, I realized that it was difficult to find friends who understood my new hobby. Despite comments on how nice my plants looked, when I really wanted to talk about African violets, friends' eyes glazed over with boredom. Even worse, there were the jokes from my family that my house looked like the "Little Shop of Horrors."

Knowing that joining an African violet club was the answer to finding kindred spirits, I was disappointed to find that the AV club in our town met during the day (when I had to be at work). So it was very exciting to find other AV lovers online! Now I have a group of African violet friends from all over the country. When I need advice, it is there. When I want to share my excitement over a plant, someone understands! I even have pictures of my favorite violets posted in the photo album at A.V. Tea!

There are many places on the internet to interact with other African violet lovers. They range from forums that are kept exclusively on the topic of African violets, to those that allow off topic posts. Many of the forum members are already members of AVSA, but often people new to the hobby drop by for advice. Posts on the forum include topics like wicking, mites, pots, and favorite plants.

I've learned so much from participating in forums. First I've learned that I definitely have AV OCD (African Violet Obsessive Compulsive Disorder) and that PDD (Patience Deficit Disorder) is what drives me mad when a flower takes forever to open. Members have walked me through the process of growing babies from leaves. There are nice people from all over the country who are happy to share extra plants and leaves.

## Some forums on the internet are:

- Garden web is a forum which is associated with AVSA. Posts in the forum are kept on the topic of African violets. <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/afrviolet/>
- African Violet Lovers is a large, active forum. People on the forum are very friendly and there is no screening of off topic posts. <http://pub63.ezboard.com/fwelcomehome46867frm1>
- African Violets Forum is another large active forum. On this forum, off topic posts are also tolerated; however, there are restrictions of the posts of vendors. <http://pub23.ezboard.com/affricanviolets23524frm1>
- Rachael Reflections Forum has links to a forum and chat. <http://www.rachelsreflections.com/>
- AV Tea is a club located at Yahoo. There aren't a great number of posts at this club; however, their photo album will make you drool as you look at some fantastic AV pictures! It is worth the time to become a member of this forum just to look at the photo album. (You have to become a member to look at the photos; it just takes a little time, but is free.) <http://yahoo.com/clubs/avtea>

Visiting a forum is simple. Simply type in the underlined address. Usually the forum has a place to click on for information. Check out on any topics which might interest you and you can read the "threads" (postings on one topic.) When you arrive, be sure to introduce yourself. See you in cyberspace!



# Affiliate Update

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*

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In my last column, I began a discussion of the needs and requirements for affiliates to register as tax-exempt, non-profit organizations. Or, should I say lack of a need to register? I emphasized that most of our affiliates are automatically non-profit because they were organized as educational organizations and because their gross receipts do not exceed \$5,000 a year. If you missed the national requirements, please refer to the Affiliate column in the May/June 2001 issue of the magazine.

I would be incomplete if I didn't at least mention state policies. I can only do that briefly because each state differs in regard to its policies and requirements. I have done some checking into some of the states. Generally, in order to receive tax-exempt status from the state, you have to first apply for and receive that status from the IRS. However, like the federal government, most states acknowledge that an organization is still non-profit without applying for tax-exempt status and allow the clubs to have sales with or without a show. Some states require the organization to file for a permit and/or pay state sales tax. Some states allow organizations to have sales without paying sales tax as long as the sale doesn't exceed a certain gross amount or as long as the club doesn't have more than two or three sales a year. Many states suggest that the club sales are comparable to garage sales. They limit an individual or family to so many garage sales a year without requiring them to pay state taxes. I strongly suggest that each affiliate check into its state requirements by checking with its state Department of Taxation. Those numbers can be accessed in your local telephone directory, on the internet at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or by calling one of the following IRS numbers: 800-829-1040 or 877-829-5500.

Some of the states I checked into also allow a non-profit organization to apply for a sales tax license. That license gives

the affiliate a number to use when making club purchases so that it can save the club the payment of the state tax. The states that I checked with make no connection between being registered as tax-exempt either with the IRS or with the state in order to apply for that sales tax license. Check with your local state tax office to find out if you qualify.

Again, I want to clarify that my research was done in reference to affiliates that are located in the United States. Any affiliate outside the United States should contact the tax department in its state and government in order to abide by its requirements.

I hope that you have all checked the "2001 Affiliated Clubs" list in the center of this issue of the magazine. If your club is not listed, it could be because it does not have a current president listed in the AVSA Office or because your club's treasurer did not renew the affiliate membership. Please check with the AVSA Office to find out what you need to do in order to become reinstated.

I want to thank those of you who joined us at the Affiliate Meeting in Chicago. I hope you all learned ways to shorten your meetings and make them more productive and interesting. Thank you to Mary Boland for sharing so many years of experience with us. Any club that did not have a representative present to receive a copy of the handouts may receive a copy (17 pages/4 ounces) by sending a SASE (9 1/2 x 4 1/2 inch envelope with \$1.03 in postage) to the address at the beginning of this column.

Next year's topic at the Affiliate Meeting in Washington DC will be 'Programs'. We will not only discuss types and sources but good decisions regarding planning and procedures. Be sure to be with us as members from some of our most thriving affiliates share with us their secrets of success.



# Grooming and Training African Violets

by Sue Gardner

African violets can be trained and groomed to be beautiful show plants if we follow a few simple suggestions during the life of the plant or over several months before a show. However, if we are careless with our plants for most of the year, we cannot expect to suddenly turn them into show plants in a few minutes.

General **GROOMING** includes the following:

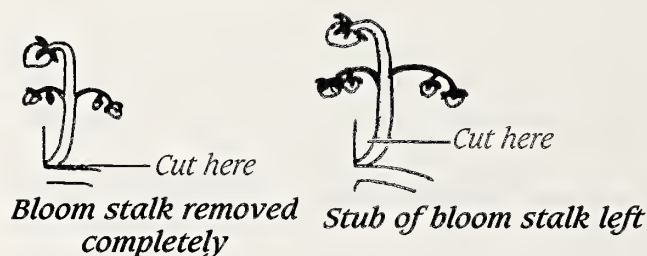
1. **Remove all yellow or badly damaged leaves.** These leaves are of no benefit to the plant, and if left on for a show would lose points. Make sure no petiole stubs are left after removal.
2. **Remove all immature leaves.** In a show, you will lose one point for each baby leaf left on a plant. However, if removal of one baby leaf spoils the symmetry, leave it on as more points are lost for lack of symmetry.
3. **Remove any leaves which spoil the symmetry of the leaf pattern.** If you keep your plant symmetrical during its early life, it will tend to stay symmetrical. Form and symmetry make up 30% of points in show judging, so it's important.
4. **If the plant has a neck, re-pot it.**
5. **Remove all side-shoots (suckers)!** Suckers cause the plant to grow out of shape and could lose up to ten points in a show.
6. **Remove all dead or dying flowers.** Dead flowers can cause fungal growth. Make sure you do not leave any stubs when removing flower stalks.
7. **Brush off any dust, dirt, or potting mix left on leaves.** Sometimes a wash with warm water can remove dirt easily. Make sure you don't saturate the potting mix, by tilting the plant and allowing the warm water to run across the outer rows of leaves. If any water does collect in the center of the plant, mop it up with a tissue.

## TRAINING

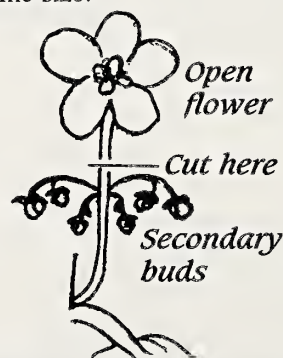
1. If your plant has leaves which are not in a symmetrical pattern, you can use training aids such as clothespins or stakes to gently push them into better position. If you use clothespins, clip them on the rim of the pot.
2. If the petioles tend to sag over the edge of the pot, you can use a collar to train the petioles to hold a horizontal position. You can use a plastic-coated paper plate cut in half as follows: Insert the two pieces of plate under the outer leaves of the plant and rest them on the pot so that they support the leaves and prevent the petioles being damaged by the pot rim.



3. You can train your plants to flower in great profusion for a show by disbudding them for several months beforehand. If this upsets you too much, leave one flower stalk only, and enjoy a few flowers while gaining most of the benefits of disbudding. Also, if you disbud, it gives your plant a good opportunity to grow a well-formed symmetrical rosette of leaves. Then, when the plant flowers, you have a perfect example of an African violet. You may disbud plants until six to eight weeks before a show. Some people remove the complete flower stalk. Others remove all but the last 10mm of stalk. They do this because some African violets produce two bloom stalks in each axil. This means you must remove all stubs before a show. If you decide this is too much work, remove the full stalk instead. Disbud as follows:



Sometimes we disbud our plants, but on show day some flowers are faded or dead and we may damage fresh blooms in our efforts to remove them. If we practice disblossoming, we can avoid this. Also, disblossoming helps the blossoms on our plant to be all the same size. Disblossoming means removing the blossoms that have opened too early for the show. It is best to ascertain how long a blossom lasts on each plant, but if you cannot do this, follow this rule of thumb: Remove all blossoms which are fully open fourteen days before the show. Do this by cutting the pedicel (small stalk supporting each individual flower) as shown below. You will usually find only the first flower to open is removed and this allows the other flowers to develop to the same size.



From the Newsletter of the Early Morn Group, Australia

# Watering

by Sue Hodges

There are many methods of watering African violets and other gesneriads. What is best for you will depend on your conditions, the size of your collection, and the amount of time at your disposal.

Top watering is fine if you have a small collection of plants. You can water over the soil with a watering can, but you should be careful not to let water lie in the crown of the plant as this can lead to rotting of the center leaves. You should check the soil surface before you water. If the soil surface is damp, leave the plant for a day or so and check again. Water only when the soil surface is dry to the touch. Overwatering is the easiest way to kill an African violet!

Most growers who have large collections find that time dictates that they find an easier method of watering. Usually, they turn to wick-watering which is also a good way for your plants to survive holiday periods when you are not around to care for them.

Some experimentation is usually needed to gain the optimum performance in your conditions. Everyone's growing conditions are slightly different, and what may suit one grower may not be right for another. There are a number of choices of wick materials. Some people use venetian blind cord, others use acrylic knitting yarn, and others use strips of nylon stockings. These are all suitable, but whatever you use needs to be synthetic. Natural fibers will rot in the fertilizer solution.

Potting mix for wick-watered plants must be very light and open. A mix that is too heavy will hold too much water and plants will be susceptible to crown rot. Perlite may be added to a mix to help lighten it. Ensure that the wick extends into the mix, or run the cord across the base of the pot so that the wick is in good contact with the potting mix and the capillary action can take place. Water the plant from the top to ensure that the mix is moist enough to start the capillary action. Then, the plant can be placed on a container of fertilizer solution and it will take the water up through the wick.

Wick-watering does have some disadvantages, despite its popularity. Wicks may cease to draw water and dry out and have to be thoroughly moistened to restart the action. Also, algae often develops in the water containers making them green and unsightly, although it will not harm the plants.

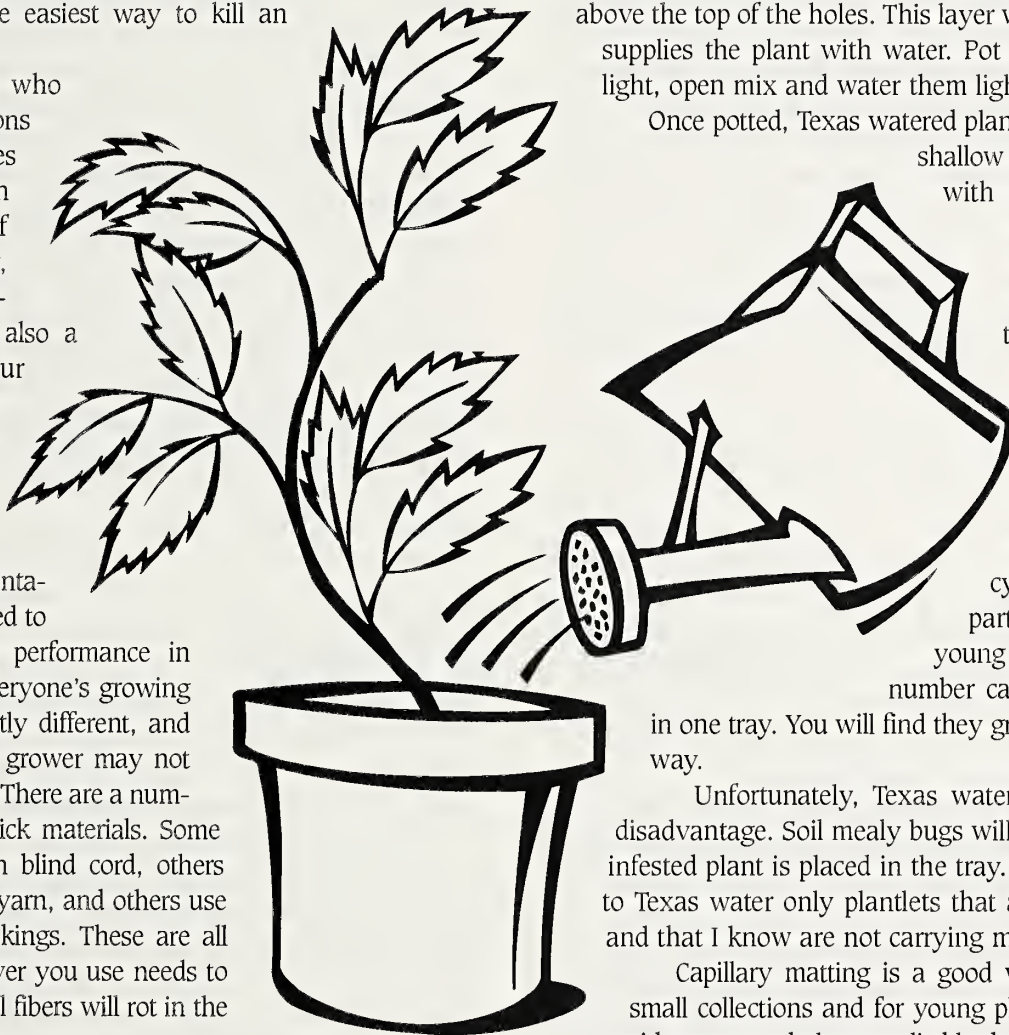
Texas watering involves setting pots in water for extended periods, which is something you are usually told not to do. Pots for Texas watering are prepared by making a row of holes about 2cm from the base of the pot. The pot is then filled with perlite or other very porous material to just above the top of the holes. This layer will act as a wick and supplies the plant with water. Pot your plants using a light, open mix and water them lightly.

Once potted, Texas watered plants can be placed in a shallow tray which is filled with water or fertilizer solution to the level of the row of holes. The pots remain in the water until the plants have taken it up. The tray can be left dry for several days and then refilled to restart the cycle. This method is particularly good for young plants as quite a number can be accommodated in one tray. You will find they grow very quickly this way.

Unfortunately, Texas watering does have one disadvantage. Soil mealy bugs will spread rapidly if an infested plant is placed in the tray. This is why I prefer to Texas water only plantlets that are newly potted up and that I know are not carrying mealy bug.

Capillary matting is a good watering method for small collections and for young plants. A tray is lined with carpet underlay, acrylic blanket, or similar material to hold water. Plants are then placed into pots which have very flat bases to ensure the pot has good contact with the matting. This method is excellent for small plants, miniature sinningias, and plants which need higher humidity. But, capillary matting will dry out quite quickly, especially in hot weather, and soil mealy bugs will spread easily from pot to pot if an infected plant is introduced.

All of these methods will grow excellent plants. The choice will depend entirely on you and what you find most convenient.



# Episcias

by Rob and Olive Ma Robinson

Episcias are plants that we've "acquired" a taste for over time. Rob, at the very least, had been reluctant to grow them. They are beautiful and, when well-grown, they can be spectacular. They do have their eccentricities, though. It takes an understanding of these, which it took us a time to acquire, to grow them well and fully appreciate them. After an uncertain courtship, we've now come to understand them and to love them.

Episcias, like African violets, are a member of the gesneriad family. Common names sometimes given to them are "flame violets" or "peacock plants". These names are descriptive of their very colorful, textured leaves, the most beautiful of any gesneriad. Most bloom in shades of bright red to orange, though blooms in cream, pink, yellow, and blue also exist. With a few exceptions, blooms are relatively small, but can be freely produced on a well-grown plant. The blooms can be beautiful, but one really grows episcias for their beautiful foliage.

Episcias are native to Central and South America, to Brazil, and to the West Indies. There are well over 30 species in this genus, but most of today's hybrids are descended from three of them - *E. cupreata*, *E. lilacina*, and *E. reptans*. *E. cupreata* is responsible for most of these, particularly the more colorfully-leaved varieties. These include the varieties 'Cleopatra' and 'Silver Sheen'. The lilac or blue-flowered varieties are descended from *E. lilacina*. The blue-flowered varieties can be stubborn bloomers unless given much stronger light, moister soil, and very high humidity.

Episcias, like violets, are generally shade lovers, meaning that they don't normally tolerate prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, except under certain, narrow, conditions. The name, *Episcia*, is derived from the Latin "espiskios", meaning "shaded". We grow ours under lights, with the violets, against the back wall, or in baskets in the north end of the glasshouse. Good light is important in bringing out the lovely colors of the leaves. If the light is too bright, however, leaf color might be less intense.

The two most important things to remember when growing episcias are warmth and humidity. Episcias are tropical plants that require warmth and prefer humidity to grow well. A minimum temperature for episcias is 65F degrees, below which leaf edges may turn brown or leaves may be lost. Below 50F degrees, most will quickly die. We find that ours suffer when grown too close to the cold panes of the glasshouse in winter. They will tolerate temperatures as high as 80F degrees with moderate (40-50%) humidity, and much higher temperatures with high (70% or more) humidity and moist soil.

Though very high humidity isn't critical, it is beneficial, and at least moderate humidity is essential in growing nice specimens. At minimum, 30% humidity is recommended. Higher humidity becomes even more important, the higher the temperature. If one wants a profusely blooming plant with large flowers, moderate to high humidity can be very helpful. Some of the best specimens seen at shows are grown enclosed in clear containers, in terrarium-like conditions. For some varieties, like the white and pink-leaved *E. 'Cleopatra'* and *E. 'Pink Brocade'* and the yellow-flowered *E. 'Tropical Topaz'*, this is the only way to provide them with the humidity levels they need to be grown very well.

As for soil, water, and feeding, we give episcias pretty much the same care as we do our African violets. A light, soilless mix is best, and it is best to keep it as close to evenly moist as possible. If kept too dry, leaf edges may become brown or curled. We've had this happen to older, larger, plants that consume more water, especially in higher temperatures. If kept too wet, roots can rot. We've found some varieties, like *E. 'Star of Bethlehem'* to have small root systems prone to rotting if kept too wet. We've also had this happen to immature plants placed on wet capillary mats before their root system is developed enough to handle the extra water (though they appreciate the humidity).

Because episcias freely produce stolons, which bear small plantlets at their tips, propagation is extremely easy. Keep the center four leaves of these plantlets, and keep no more than 1/2 inch of the stolon. Also remove any small buds or smaller plantlets from the one being rooted. If the plantlet's leaves are too large, the ends of these can be removed. Press the stolon and base of the plantlet into moistened soil and place in a closed, transparent, container. Rooted plants can be removed from the container in three weeks - or you can continue to grow them there if you need the extra humidity.

Once they begin to grow, it's best to remove the small, developing stolons, to allow the plant to more quickly and fully, develop. After the main stem gets thicker and stronger, and the plant matures, it will bloom. At this point, we pot it into a larger pot, or basket, and allow the stolons to grow. These too, will eventually produce blooms and stolons. Episcias grow quickly, and can look "weedy" if unattended, so don't be afraid to remove excess stolons. When well grown, episcias can be some of the most colorful and rewarding plants in your collection.

*From VioletsFun Photo Journal*





# Leaf Propagation in Water

by Danny Jones

I've tried various methods to propagate leaves, and have run into certain difficulties with the most common ones. Propagating in soil has caused problems with leaves rotting if the soil is too wet or, if I try to address overly wet conditions, the soil goes too dry. Rooting in water alone requires that I eventually pot up the leaf anyway so plantlets can form. I tried this method with a spare leaf I had due to grooming one of my African violets, and it went off without a hitch. I've now begun doing this with all my leaves, and it works very well.

I use the clear 9 oz. SOLO-brand cups that are found in most grocery stores. I put vermiculite in the cup so there's a layer one inch thick. Add water with fertilizer in it, using the amount that's appropriate for feeding with each watering. I watch the water level through the side of the cup and stop when I see the water level is just under the top level of the vermiculite, about one quarter inch below the top level.

I then insert my prepared leaf or two leaves, having trimmed the stem to half an inch long, and cut it at an angle. If the leaf is too large and goes over the top rim of the cup, I trim it down by lopping off the top with a clean, sharp knife. Insert the stem into the vermiculite at an angle, and if I'm using two leaves, I set them so they're facing each other. When using two leaves, it's best they be small in size.

Then I use a square of plastic wrap cut to size and place it over the cup. I smooth the top by pushing the plastic down the

sides of the cup with my hands, and then I use a rubber band to secure the plastic wrap. I often trim the plastic down a bit if it's extending too far down the sides of the cup. I like being able to easily view the plantlets' growth through the sides of the cup.

I then use a small knife and gently, carefully, pierce the plastic-wrap covering in the center. I twist the knife around to help make a hole (being careful to not disturb the leaf/leaves).

Then I put the cup on the top shelf of my lighted plant stand because it's the warmest spot, and I leave it alone. Strangely enough, I never really have to add water to the cups because it seems the covering holds in enough moisture while the hole in the top allows excess moisture to escape. But I still take a look at the vermiculite through the side of the cup and monitor moisture levels. Adding a bit of water isn't too difficult. Just pull off the plastic covering, add a bit of water, recover it with the same plastic, and secure it with the rubber band again.

Try this with a spare leaf so you can judge the results for yourself and get comfortable with the process. An added benefit of this method, I've found, is that I know exactly what variety of African violet I have in each cup because they are isolated from other leaves I'm propagating.

*From African Violet Leaves, publication of the Illinois AVS*



## Nana's Violets

by Anna Kerley • Trussville, AL

As a little girl growing up, I remember my grandmother, Nana, always growing African violets. They were in plastic butter tubs with holes punched in the bottom. She never threw away a leaf. If it broke off, she would immediately put it in water to root it. She loved her violets, and handled them with great care.

Nana died in 1988, and my sister-in-law and I each took a few violets home with us. Over a couple years, because I really didn't know how to care for them, one by one they died.

Two years ago, I visited my sister-in-law, and she pointed out the African violet on her coffee table. She said, "You know that was Nana's violet."

I could hardly believe she still had that violet after all these years. It was beautiful! As I was leaving, she cut one of the leaves off and wrapped it in a wet paper towel. I would not be returning home until the next day, but I kept that towel moist until I got home. I put that leaf in water to root. Several

weeks later, I put the rooted leaf in a pot with soil. Today, it is the most beautiful violet I own. It is a trailer with white blossoms. I have rooted seven leaves so I will always have a violet that was my Nana's. They are very precious to me.

Now, I am well educated about violets. Working with that one leaf sparked me to learn more. I have read every book on African violets in my local library and every book from the local Botanical Garden's library. I recently found out about the AVSA magazine and I love it.

I now have over 200 violets in my collection! It is a great hobby, very relaxing and fulfilling. I can't seem to find enough space for them, and I just keep buying more!

I recently sold a few of my violets to the local garden shop, and he keeps asking me for more. If you ask my three children, "What is your mom doing?" They will say, "She's in there with the plants again." What can I say? I love African violets!

# Autumn Care

by Ruth Grieco

Another season is upon us. As the colors begin to fade from our flower gardens, we begin to think about replacing the outdoor rainbow of color with the beauty and varied palette which bursts forth from our violets. Spending some extra time on our violets leads to healthier, happier plants that will soon begin to set blossoms.

As many of you know, ideally you should repot your entire collection at least once a year. Autumn is a perfect time to repot, groom, and rejuvenate your collection. Repotting annually is suggested because regardless of the potting medium used, within one year, most of the nutrients are depleted. Using a light-weight medium is recommended. Many of us use soilless mixtures to which we add some perlite and vermiculite. A light-weight mixture allows the plants to use the moisture in the "soil" without becoming waterlogged. Another very critical point is to never pack the "soil" down around the plant. This restricts the roots and limits their ability to get the necessary oxygen to breathe, grow, and thrive. Whether you are potting up (replanting your violet into a larger pot) or simply repotting, the best method is to fill the new pot with your "soil", lift the pot, and gently tap the top up and down on a flat surface to allow the "soil" to settle.

When transplanting, it is best to do so when the plant is on the dry side. This way, the leaves on your violet are a bit more flexible and less likely to break unexpectedly. Secondly, always transplant to a clean, disinfected pot. Since disease may be spread from plant to plant through a shared pot, it is best to wash and dry the pot thoroughly before using it again. I usually wash my pots in Clorox® or Lysol®.

Some growers feel it is best to disbud any violet which you are transplanting. The logic here is that, if disbudded, the plant will expend all of its energy into making stronger roots and leaves in its "new" home. To be honest, I don't always do this. It kind of depends on how long it's been since I've seen the blossom on that violet, or how desperate I am for indoor color. However, I know that on the violets I do disbud, they set new buds surprisingly quickly after repotting.

From "*Ye Bay Stater*",  
publication of the Bay State AVS

# Powdery Mildew

by Cheryl Salatino

Powdery mildew forms on plants when temperatures are warmer during the day and colder at night. Powdery mildew is very active during the winter months, although it can be found as the weather changes between the seasons. It can seriously damage your plants if left unattended.

Powdery mildew spores spread through the air. When there is moisture, condensation, or poor air circulation during "Powdery Mildew weather", the conditions are right for it to settle in. Please consider trying some preventative measures:

- Run a small fan to improve air circulation. (Tip: Consider running it at night when conditions are most likely for powdery mildew to spread.)
- Keep daytime and evening temperatures within a ten-degree variance.
- Hold humidity levels to approximately 50 - 60%.

If your plants are affected by powdery mildew, try the following three steps:

- Wash your plants with a warm water spray. Since powdery mildew can't live in water, a good sink bath goes a long way to control the problem.
- Spray your plant room with Lysol®. Wash out your plant trays and spray them with Lysol® before returning the plants to the stand.
- If the problem persists, carefully spray your foliage with a fungicide (don't forget the underside of the leaves). For example, fungicide Physan 20 is very effective. It will not mar the foliage, but be careful because it will mark blossoms.

Powdery mildew is persistent. Outsmart it before it gets the better of you!

From "*Ye Bay Stater*",  
publication of the Bay State AVS



# Repotting Streps

by Dale Martens

If I truly want to save the roots when I repot a strep but don't want all the old soil, perlite, etc., then I take a bucket of room temperature water and clean off the soil by vigorously swishing the root ball in the water. It helps to have two buckets of water because the first gets pretty muddy. I use my fingers to assist in removing the chunks of perlite. Nothing hurts a strep more than to have cold or hot water on its roots so I'm careful about the temperature. By the way, this is a good time to check the bucket to see if any small, white critters are floating on top (soil mealybugs).

Remove old leaves, those that are yellowing, or those that have already produced six blossom stems. In addition, remove any large leaves in the center of the plant that may be blocking light for other leaves.

Then I've got a mass of roots left. I really can't spread them out because I don't want to break any. So I usually plop the root ball in the center of a pot and gently push soil

around the roots. I try to be very careful not to place the strep deeper in the pot than it was before. In fact, I usually place it a tad higher in the pot, thinking it'll settle down later. If the plant is wobbly, then I take a thin wooden skewer and pierce through the oldest leaf and push the skewer to the bottom of the pot. That holds the plant in place.

Most streps hate any kind of transplanting, so I usually make sure I put the pot and plant inside a tall bag for a couple of weeks and then slowly acclimate it to open air. The wooden skewer helps to hold the bag upright.

I do use Superthrive, seven drops per gallon, when I transplant something. I have no idea if it truly helps, but it makes me feel better to think that I'm trying to prevent the strep from going into shock.

*From The Dixie News*



## What To Do With Your New Plant

by Pat Addison

First and most important, isolate your plant. Put it in a bright spot, far away from your other plants, preferably in a different room. Watch it for at least one month. If you don't have a separate room, enclose it in a plastic bag. Watch for insects and mildew.

### CHECK THE BLOSSOMS

Look for spilled pollen. This is most evident on dark single or semi-double flowers. Gently flick the pollen sacs with a fingernail. Watch for thrips. Thrips are slender-bodied insects, 0.5 to 5 mm in length. They are yellow or tan.

### CHECK THE CROWN

Look for mite damage. Leaves may twist, curl and become brittle. The center of the plant may appear excessively fuzzy with a gray coloring. Do not confuse mite damage with over-watering or over fertilization. This will appear in the center leaves also, but the leaves will be brown or orange and crusty looking.

### CHECK THE ROOTS

Soil mealy bugs are wide-spread in the commercial African violet market. Look for cottony masses in the root ball. These are the egg sacks. You may also see white waxy material in the

root ball, on the pot, or floating in the water reservoirs. Soil mealy bugs are only 1-4 mm in length so they are hard to see without a magnifying glass. (The wire of a medium size paper clip is about 1 mm in diameter).

### OVER ALL INSPECTION

Aphids are pear-shaped sucking insects. They are 1-5 mm in length (about 1/8 inch). They can be green to yellow, black or pink. They have long legs and antennae.

Foliar mealy bugs are white and mealy. They can be found on the foliage, stems, and crown of the plant. They lay their eggs in cottony masses.

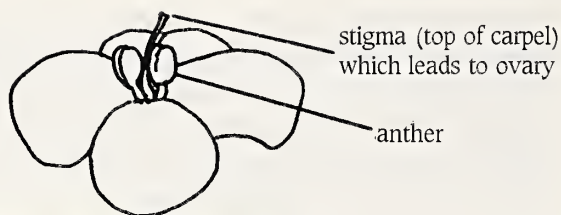
Mildew looks like fine powder dusted on the foliage and blossoms.

*From African Violet Leaves,  
publication of the Illinois AVS, Inc.*



# Hybridizing

by Sue Gardner

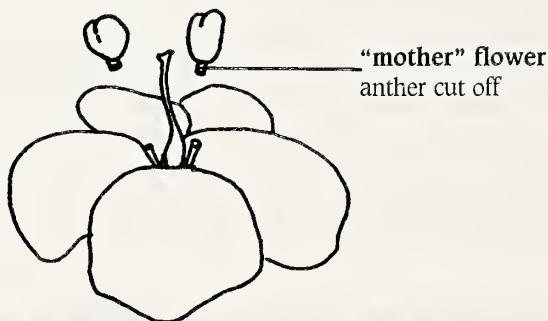


## Parts of flower used in hybridizing.

### How to hand pollinate

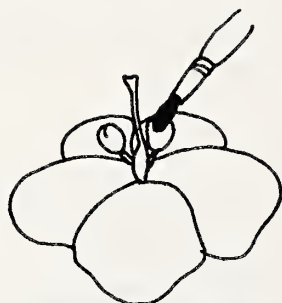
The flowers you choose to cross should be mature, not recently opened or aging.

1. Select your "mother" flower and, if you wish, remove the anthers with small sharp scissors to prevent self-pollination interfering with your cross.

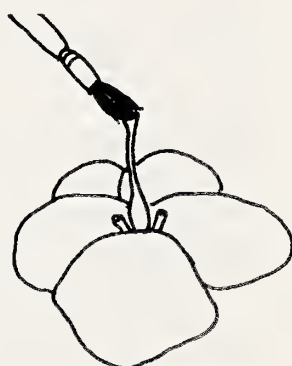


## 2. The pollination can be effected in several ways.

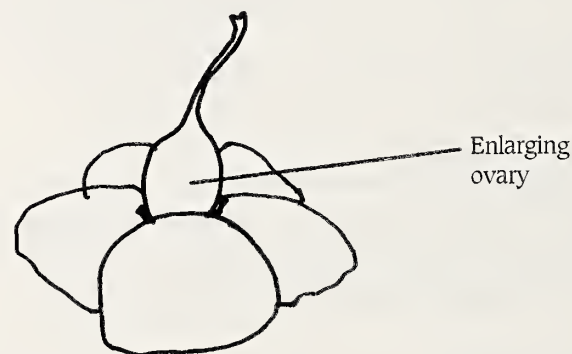
- a) Using a small soft artist's brush, transfer pollen from the anthers of the "male" parent flower to the stigma of the "mother" flower.



Removing pollen from  
"male" parent flower



Placing pollen on stigma  
of "mother" flower

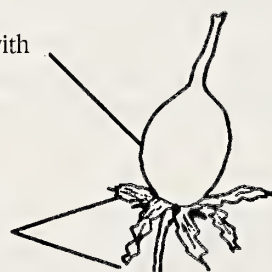


- b) Cut the anthers from the "male" flower with small sharp scissors and place on a piece of paper. Cut the anther open with razor blade then pick up cut section with tweezers and rub gently onto stigma of "mother" flower until some pollen adheres. Use a magnifying glass to check for success.



Ovary enlarged with  
seeds

Shriveled petals



- c) After cutting anthers from "male" parent flower, place on a piece of paper and place thumbnail or nail of forefinger on anther until pollen adheres. Brush thumbnail across the stigma of "mother" flower until pollen adheres. Use your magnifying glass to make sure pollen has adhered.



You should tie a colored thread with a tag to the pedicel of the "mother" flower so that you don't accidentally pull off the faded flower later. It will also be a record of the precise cross you have made.

If the fertilization has been successful, you will find that the ovary enlarges as shown below. The petals will wither and die, but the ovary will remain green. When the pedicel (flower stalk) withers, the ovary will dry and turn brownish. You may then remove it.

## Sowing Seed

1. When you have removed your seedpod, you should keep it in a dry place until you are ready to sow the seed.
2. Select a flat container and clean it well, even soaking in bleach solution then rinsing well.
3. Use a fine mixture of vermiculite and peat moss. Pour boiling water over, then wait until cooled. Alternatively, use a jiffy pot, pouring boiling water over it.
4. Open your seedpod over a piece of white paper to catch the seeds. The black African violet seed is very tiny, like dust, and you need to hold your breath while looking at it or it will be blown away!
5. Fold paper carefully to be able to distribute seed evenly. Carefully sprinkle the seed over the prepared potting mix or jiffy pot.
6. Cover the pot with a clear plastic container or gladwrap and place in a warm, light place and wait!
7. If you need to water use a fine mist of warm water.
8. When the tiny plants appear, wait until at least leaves are present, then pot up the tiny plants. Water with a very weak solution of fertilizer.
9. Be very selective in the plants that you keep. Do discard all singles that drop their blossoms.
10. Remember to reproduce all plants by leaf cuttings to three generations before submitting to the group to be named. It takes about a year from pollination to a new plant of any size.

*From the Newsletter of the  
Early Morn Group - Australia and NZ*



# Growing in Natural Light

While many growers have artificial lighting for their plants, violets and other gesneriads are quite happy with natural light. After all, this is the way they grow in the wild!

Probably the largest benefit of artificial light is that there are no cloudy days; the light is consistent and able to be controlled. With natural light, growth will probably be slower and plants will take longer to bloom than under artificial light. African violets can take some early morning or late afternoon sun, but midday sunlight needs to be filtered with a curtain or something similar. During winter, the sun is lower in the sky, often comes into rooms more than in summer, and is still strong enough to burn unprotected plants.

A north or northeast window is probably the best aspect, with the plant being within about twelve inches of a window. Trees, eaves, and awnings will all have a bearing on how much light enters your room. Of course, skylights allow lots of light into rooms, and conditions may vary from room to room.

Water well pots are attractive for growing on window sills,

and they allow you to fertilize your plants as you water. Turn your plants a quarter turn every few days so that they develop evenly. If you do not, the plants will grow towards the light source and will develop a lean to one side. Turning the plant also encourages buds to develop evenly around the plant.

If you grow a number of plants at a window, you may like to rotate the positions so that the plants all get an even share of the light. Sometimes, plants can be placed on containers to raise them above those that are closer to the light. Some people even suspend plants from a rail above the window as you would hanging baskets.

Try moving your plants around until you find a position where they are happy and bloom well. Give them as much light as you can, short of hot, midday sun, and they will reward you with lots of bloom.

*From African Violet News Official Journal of the  
African Violet - Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.*

## In Memory



### GRACE POND

Grace Pond of Goldsboro, NC, passed unexpectedly in March, 2001.

Historian of the Goldsboro AVS, Grace was a pleasure to know and a valuable member of the club. She is missed very much.



# “And the winners are ...”



**Mary Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**AVC OF MORRIS COUNTY, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Candy Pink, Optimara Tradition, Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Pink Playmate, Heritage Frolic; Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best Semiminiature: Little Pro; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob Kurzynski**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Lyon's June Bug, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea hirta* 'Light Prince', **Jill Fischer**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki**.

**AVS OF DAYTON, OH – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Lela Marie, Mary Craig; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus* 'Coral Flame', **Anne Thomas**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Scooter, Rob's Antique Rose, Wee Be; Best Semiminiature: Wee Be; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Dorothy Rittenhouse**. Best Design, **Mary Everling**.

**AVS OF LOWER BUCKS, PA – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snowy Trail, Cirelda, Milky Way Trail; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bill Lyons**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Blue Silhouette, Little Pro, Optimara Little Seneca; Best Semiminiature: Blue Silhouette, **Kay Lyons**. Best Standard: Optimara Tradition, **Carolyn Shaw**. Best Miniature: Rob's Rinky Dink, **Joan Reed**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* Seedling #24, **Anna Mae Brown**. Best Design, **Joyce McMullen**. Design Sweepstakes, **Martha Hiel**.

**AVS OF SOUTH BAY, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Maas' Mary Lou, Apache Freedom; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Dorothy Gawienowski**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Cool Fruit; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Irene Thomas**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia leucotricha*, **Celine Chase**.

**AVS OF SPRINGFIELD, PA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia intermedia*, *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #0; Best in Show/Best Standard/Best Species: *Saintpaulia intermedia*; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Runaround; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Jones**. Best Design, **Debbie Schaffer**.

**AVS OF SYRACUSE, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fredette's Sweet Jenny, Powder Keg, East Wind; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Sun Dance'; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ethel Champion**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Private Dancer, Jenny's Cricket, Blushing Ivory, **Karen Dupree**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Thunder, Texas Teen, Irish Flirt; Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Ramblin' Stardust, **Mary Ryan**. Best in Show/Best Standard/Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Monica Kot**. Best Miniature: Timid Teen, **Donna Coleman**. Best

Design, **Penny Moore**.

**AVS OF WESTERN NY, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Creation, Harbor Blue, Rosie Ruffles; Best Standard: Rainbow Connection; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Elaine Geiger**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi's Tears, Ode to Beauty, Powwow, **Olive Ma Robinson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Rob's Cloudy Skies, Rob's June Bug; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hallucination, **Ralph Robinson**. Best Trailer: Murphy's Law, **Marge Jasininski**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Paul Kroll**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Blaebe', **Mike Kotarski**.

**BERGEN COUNTY AVS, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Optimara Georgia, Pink Blueberry; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Best Design, **Lee Borey**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode To Beauty, Private Dancer, Picasso; Best Semiminiature: Shy Blue, **Barbara Church**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Wild Irish Rose; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Lucinda Mundi**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Betty Curry**. Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Joe Desimon**.

**COLUMBUS AVS, OH – Winners:** Best Standard Collection: Smooch Me, Picasso, Ness' Bangle Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: Smooch Me; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dust Storm; Best Miniature: Dean's Rosalie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Martin**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Evelyn Lord, Sansoucy' Julie-Marie, **Audrey Trorell**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Branwen'; Best Design, **Thelma Miller**. Design Sweepstakes, **Janice Beatty**.

**CAPITAL CITY AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frosty Spring, Maggie Lee, Tomahawk, **Oscar Faoro**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lyon's Plum Pudding, Cinnamon Candy, Frosted Midnight; Best in Show/Best Standard: Cinnamon Candy; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose, **Leona Faoro**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia canescens*; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Vera Parker**. Best Design, **Mae Mendes**.

**CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smokey Moon, Wild Irish Rose, Harbor Blue; Best Standard: Harbor Blue; Best Semiminiature: Christening Gown; Best Miniature: Spring Peach; Best Trailer: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Aiko'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Margaret Califano**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: China Pink, Granger's Desert Dawn, Mauna Loa; Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia brevipilosa*, **Esther Mason**. Best Design, **Vincent Ozimek**. Design Sweepstakes, **Kathy Schnurr**.

**CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Elizabeth, Rhapsodie Nancy, Ode to Beauty, **Annamarie Beardley**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Red

Bandito, Precious Pink; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rhapsodie Maria; Best Semiminiature: Red Bandito; Best Miniature: Rob's Penny Ante; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Jealous Heart'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis**. Best Trailer: Lil Runaround, **Dale Jasaitis**. Best Design, **Christine Brenner**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Murasko**.

**CINCINNATI AVS, OH – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Anna Kreeck, Suncoast Lavender Silk; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Sheer Peach, **Helen Chambers**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Ruby, Petite Jewel, Rob's Twinkle Pink; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby; Best Species: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia pusilla* 'White Sprite'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Penny Wichman**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Dakota Moonlight; Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Marge Slye**.

**CLUB VIOLETES LONGUEVIL, QC – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: B-Man's Caltanissetta, Albany Sunset, Bud's Lite; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Bud's Cool Raspberry, Midnight Rascal, Rob's Dust Storm; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob McCabe**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Scooter, Pink Skies, Von's Small Gift; Best Trailer: Barbara Jane Trail, **Greta Durand**. Best in Show/Best Standard: P.A. Longtin, **Denis Croteau**. Best Miniature: Merrilee; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Mario Santopietro**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia araneosa*, **Bill Price**. Best Design, **Denise Gagnon**. Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki**.

**DIXIE AVS – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Tomahawk, Picasso; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pink Satin, Dean's Bunny Blue, Lyon's June Bug; Best in Show/Best Standard: Bertha; Best Semiminiature: Dean's Bunny Blue; Best Trailer: Pixie Show-off; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. Best Miniature: Aly's Blizzard Bunny, **Christel Collier**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299, **Joyce Stenger**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus species 99-33* 'Madagascar', **Gary Gordon**.

**FIRST AVS OF DENTON, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Sensation, Apache Jewel, Alpha Charlie; Best Trailer: Cirelda; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Pink Filigree'; Best Design, **Phyllis Reuss**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Irish Flirt, Rob's Scooter, **Ann Nicholas**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lyon's Ice Princess, Honey Blue Angel, Mini Minx; Best in Show/Best Standard: Gay Lady; Best Miniature: Peppy Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Richard Nicholas**. Best Semiminiature: Red Bandito; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Design Sweepstakes, **Janel Castiglione**.

**FIRST AVS OF WICHITA FALLS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mister Sun, Windy Day, Ness' Viking Maiden; Best in Show/Best Standard: Marching Band; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Allene Peek**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', **Mary Walbrick**.

**GARDEN STATE AVC, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Fool's Gold, Cupid's Kiss; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Fool's Gold; Best Standard/Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Best Miniature: Persian Prince; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fred Hill**. Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Alice's Aussie', **Elizabeth Tan**. Best Design, **Betty Smith**.

**GULF AVC, FL – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Suncoast Paisley Print, Top Dollar, Muffy; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hallucination; Best Miniature: Rob's Ice Ripples; Best Trailer: Rob's Galiwinku; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lois Giles**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Christine, Lela Marie, Happy Harold; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Hand Painted'; Design Sweepstakes, **Anna-Marie Rinick**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Crystal, Rob's Rinky Dink, Rob's Whiz Bang, **Jean West**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Illini Peace; Best Design, **Toni Loosemore**.

**HEART OF MISSOURI AVS, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Optimara Ontario, Ode to Beauty; Best Miniature: Rob's Tippy Toe; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Anderson**. Best in Show/Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Standard: Tiger Lily; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Catherine Ross**. Best Semiminiature: Angel's Delight; Design Sweepstakes, **Peggy Payne**.

Best Design, **Pat Leighty**.

**LAKES AREA VIOLET GROWERS, MN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Forever Blue, Ness' Viking Maiden, Ness' White Bear; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, **Jean Ness**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Melanie, Optimara Hiroshige, Rebel's Blaze Spinner; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lyon's Ice Princess, Ness' Angel Babe, Rob's Smarty Pants; Best Standard: Ness' Blue Ribbons, **Ken Rein**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Thunder, Boo Man, Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Clytie'; Best Design, **Kathy Lahti**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #7; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Jude Neumann**.

**LAKESHORE AVS OF TORONTO, ONT – Winners:** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frosted Whisper, Tomahawk, Floozie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Lace Shadows, Little Pro; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverley Williams**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Smooch Me, **Tony Hulleman**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Scooter; Best Miniature: Rob's Bee Boopsie; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Sandra Lex**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia magungensis*; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Aiko', **Daphne Yaremko**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Nancy Ley**.

**LATE BLOOMERS AVC – WI – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hot Tamale, Rob's Monkeyshines, Rob's Argyle Socks; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Raspberry Cream'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Shirley Streit**. Best Standard: The Alps, **Carole Zimmerman**. Best Design, **Mable Lewis**.

**LONG ISLAND AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Lyon's Pirate's Treasure, Ness Coral Sunset; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Summer Song, Rob's Ruff Stuff; Best in Show/Best Standard: Wishing Well; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Vogt**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Anastasia, Stargate, Rhapsodie Clementine, **Jeanne Maier**. Best Semiminiature: Last Snow; Best Miniature: Ballet Blueberry Ice; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Paula McDonald**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis*, **Frances Bermann**. Design Sweepstakes, **Rosemary Macaluso**.

**METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, Phobos, Mindi Morn; Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink, **Marion Hamtil**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Natchurly Nawlins, Rhapsodie Rebecca, Ultra Violet Royalty; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Petticoats'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Slow Dancin', Rob's Little Pueblo, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Trailer: Foster Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Susan Hapner**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Milky Way Trail, My Smokey Trail, Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Nancy Amelung**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Tiny Dancer; Best Miniature: Texas Space Dust, **Ardath Miller**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, **Virginia Hamilton**.

**MOONLIGHT AVS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Blue Silhouette, Rob's Bamboozle, Snuggles Rising Star; Best in Show: Snuggles Rising Star; Best Standard: Maverick's Faded Jeans; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Tamiana'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mural Fort**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Alex Early**. Best Design, **Bonnie Harris**. Design Sweepstakes (tie), **Mural Fort and Bonnie Harris**.

**NAUGATONIC AVS, CT – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snowy Trail, Ramblin' Stardust, Champagne Pink; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Champagne Pink; Best Miniature: Pink Dove; Best Gesneriad: *Codananthus*; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Sister, Optimara Little Cheyenne, Rob's Heebie Jeebie; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Angel Glitter, **Julie Prokop**.

**NORTH CENTRAL AVS, AR – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: B-Man's Melila, The Alps, Tomahawk; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Dean's Cupid, Aca's Daphne; Best in Show/Best Standard: The Alps; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Miss Sniffles; Best Miniature: Rob's Zippity Doo; Best Trailer: Rob's Miriwinni; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kirby Maggard**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powwow, Vintage Wine,

Ness' Coral Sunset; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Danny Tidwell**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Aly's Magnetosphere', **Glenda Robertson**.

**NORTH STAR AV COUNCIL, MN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lovely Lady, Aca's Margaret Joan, Aca's Red Ember, **Sharon Johnson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Sno Fun, Rob's Antique Rose; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe; Best Trailer: Snowy Egret Sport; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Werness**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Thunder, Rob's Whippoorwill, Cool Blue, **Paul Hussa**. Best Standard: Royal Flair, **Gail Podany**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Ruth Bann**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Super Orange', **Sandy Officer**.

**OSHKOSH VIOLET SOCIETY, WI – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Coral Sunset, Kev's Freckle Face, Lemon Whip; Best Standard: Monique; Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Clytie'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kevin Degner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **William Greider**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Planet Kid, Rob's Smarty Pants, Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Betty Schreiber**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dust Storm, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Irish Flirt, **Eberhardt Schreiber**. Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Cathy Heider**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Betsy Fox**.

**PARMATOWN AVC, OH – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Barbara Jean, Chiffon Moonmoth, Wendy; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #6; Best Gesneriad: *Cobananthus calochlamys*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Neumann**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Angel Eyes, Rob's Scooter, Teen Sweetheart; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Martha Bell**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Precious Pink; Best Standard: Frosted Whisper; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal; Best Design, **Marian Tisdale**.

**QUAD CITIES AVS, IA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Velvet Frost, Jazzy Jewel, Phantom Flash; Best Species: *Saintpaulia tongwensis*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Janus'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Cel Schafer**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Dode, Windy Day, Rain Man; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Fiddlesticks, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Cirelda; Best Standard: Chinook Wind; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Jackie Jones**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pinky Winky, Snuggles Blue Pearl, Optimara Little Aztec; Best Design, **Carol Boyd**.

**RICHMOND AVS, VA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Alamo Red, Bob Serbin, Wrangler's Snowfields; Best Standard: Pat Tracey; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Moonlight'; Best Design, Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Peterson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dandy Lion, Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Pewter Bells; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pewter Bells; Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Kitty Hedgepeth**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Vicki Carr**.

**ROCHESTER NY AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Blithe Spirit, Powwow, Gemcraft Pink Pearl; Best in Show/Best Standard: Silver Smoke; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Luv It', **Olive Robinson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Denim Demon, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Hallucination; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hallucination; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Ralph Robinson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Porcelain Doll, White Dew; Best Trailer: Pixie Luv; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fay Wagman**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Festenstein**.

**THE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bud's Jane, Bud's Melanie, Mindi's Tears; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mindi's Tears, **Jane Weber**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Emilie Savage, Lyon's Plum Pudding, Suncoast Lavender Silk; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Jindalee, Rob's Miriwinni, Rob's Wagga Wagga; Best Miniature: Little Obsession; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearifolia*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Edward Bradford**. Best

AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Classic Rock, Dean's Bunny Blue, Rob's Fuzzy Navel; Best Semiminiature: Dean's Bunny Blue; Best Trailer: Adeara; Best Design, **Carolyn Klein**. Design Sweepstakes, **Claire Schirtzer**.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, Rhapsodie Clementine, Natchurly Nawlins; Best Trailer: Taffy Bon Bon; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* Lite; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carolee Carter**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Nebraska, Optimara Manitoba II, Reflection; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Midnight Satin', **Peggy Gensel**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Phobos, **Madeline Taube**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boondoggle, **Lisa Fuller**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sam McKenna**.

**SILVERMINE AVS, CT – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jean-Pierre Croteau, Windy Day, Ode to Beauty; Best in Show/Best Standard: Windy Day, **Silvia Siegel**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Windy Day, Boca Grande, Fisherman's Paradise; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Dandy Lion, Rob's Puddy Cat; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, **Jean Simons**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Scooter, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Dreams'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Lynn Wallach**. Best Miniature: Petite Blarney, **Marge Rosenberg**.

**THIMBLE ISLANDS AVS, CT – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boo Man, Rob's Sarsparilla, Little Ebony; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Sarsparilla; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Penny Candy'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nancy Gilson**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Ramblin' Dots; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Charlene Boyce**.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Jealous Heart, Ode to Beauty, Apache Gem; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Marcha Grant**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Sticky Wicket, **Doris Shepherd**. Best Standard: Victorian Elegance, **Susan Spreman**. Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Seminole, **Olive Pratt**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee', **Bertha Haldeman**.

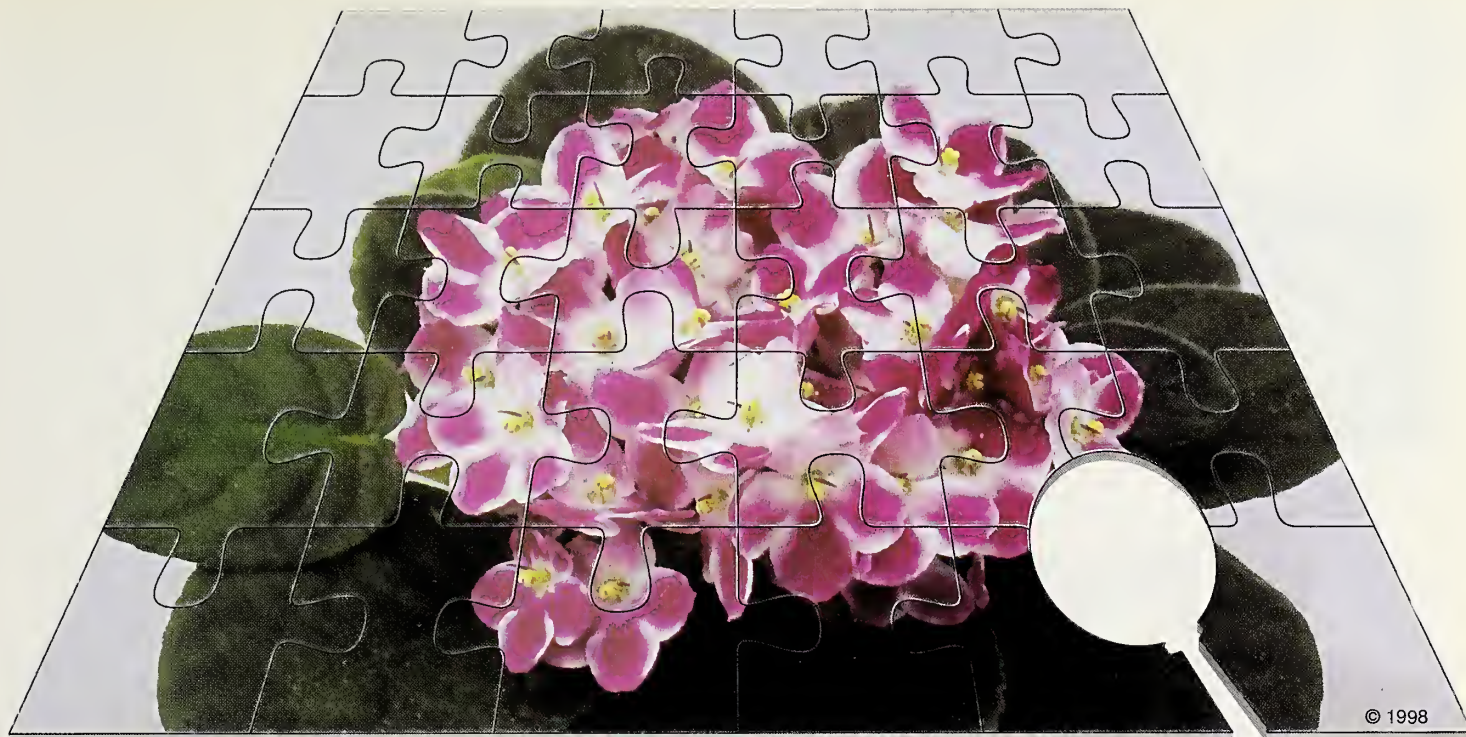
**UNION COUNTY CHAPTER NEW JERSEY AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt, Moonsilk; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Muriel Lawrence**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Clem Peters**. Best Standard: Hawaiian Pearl; Best Species: *Saintpaulia intermedia*; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea hirta* 'Light Prince', **Jill Fischer**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Chris Brenner**.

**UNPREDICTABLES AVC, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Favorite Child, Ness' Bangle Blue; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Wilma Woverton**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Tiger, Smooch Me; Best in Show/Best Standard: Tiger, **Beulah Cupito**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Sister, Irish Flirt, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **June Barttrum**. Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Sue Hill**. Best Gesneriad: *Chrysothemis pulchella*, **Doris Brown**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Linda Golubski**.

**WEST TEXAS AVS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara New Mexico, Private Dancer, Picasso; Best Design, **Mark Weston**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Lovely Lady, Optimara Modesty; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cool Blue, Optimara Little Pueblo, Rob's Antique Rose; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Cajun Trail, **Marge Savage**. Best Standard: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, **Kit Donofrio**. Best Semiminiature: Irish Flirt, **Marie Foster**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Serius', **Lea Turner**.

**WINDSOR AVS, CT – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: I Feel Pretty, Mindi's Tears, Petticoats 'n' Blue; Best Standard: Pink Feathers; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Sylvia Taub**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, East Wind, Tommie Lou; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cool Blue, Rob's Cool Fruit, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Pixie Grin; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Charlotte Howson**. Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush, **Nancy Hayes**. Best Trailer: Teeny Popper; Best Design, **Cindy Fagan**. Design Sweepstakes, **Marcia Kilpatrick**.





## What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

### Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

### From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

### A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

### The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.





**Barbara Elkin**  
*Vintage Violets Committee*  
 2855 Gayle Lane  
 Auburn, CA 95602-9674  
*email: bjabar@earthlink.net*

## Basic Support

The Vintage Violets committee has had a very good spring. Plants have turned up after being on the Wanted List for years. My message this time is in regard to another committee that needs your help.

At the Chicago AVSA Convention, Nancy Hayes was appointed Chairman of the Membership and Promotion Committee. Over the years our membership has fallen off. What does this have to do with you? Without the support of you, the membership, AVSA would cease to be.

Why not give a membership in AVSA to the winner of the Best in Show and Best in Design at your club show? If this member already belongs to AVSA then a cash award would be appropriate until the next year's show. How about a membership to the local library? Maybe a magazine for the convalescent hospital. Do you have a contest in your group, like a blossom contest? You get the idea. Every affiliate should

donate at least one membership a year. It's only twenty dollars!

Once again I thank all of you for your continued support of Vintage Violets. It couldn't be done without your help. I'm happy to announce that Aaron's Westcoast Swing, Bulls Eye, Dresden Doll, Green Go, Rebecca Jane, and Sea Shell are still around.

Remember, when someone is good enough to share with you, always return the postage asked for or not.

## AVSA Most Wanted

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Caravan Autumn Blaze   | Caravan Masterpiece |
| Caravan Emerald Ripple | Caravan Pageant     |
| Rob's June Bug         |                     |

### Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from April 1, 2001 - May 31, 2001

AVC of Morris County, New Jersey	\$5.00	James Stevenson, Sidney, OH	\$5.00
<i>In lieu of judges expenses for Joe DeSimon</i>		Irene Schubert, Worthington, MN	10.00
Bellflower AVS, Bellflower, CA	25.00	Frances C. Forbes, Stockbridge, GA	10.00
<i>In memory of Ronnie Peterson</i>		Geneva Mayo, Pulaski, TN	10.00
Barbara Jenkins, Unionville, PA	10.00	Rosemary B. Miller, Jasonville, IN	2.00
Doris R. Acree, McKenzie, TN	5.00	Molly Roley, Riverdale, GA	20.00
Jean Milstead, Rensselaer, NY	5.00	Martha Spyridon, Delray Beach, FL	10.00
Jewel Schwartz, Spirit Lake, IA	5.00	AVS of Pensacola, Pensacola, FL	1.00
Cynthia O'Brien, Norwalk, CT	5.00	Marge Farrand, Ann Arbor, MI	10.00
James Welch, San Leandro, CA	15.00	M. Fasullo, Lynbrook, NY	10.00
Pendora Reisneer, Onaway, MI	5.00	Leslie Cox, Newbury Park, CA	5.00
Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ	10.00	Mary Aranda, Volcanes, Mexico	5.00
Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR	2.00	Donna Williams, Olympia, WA	10.00
Spring Branch AVC, Houston, TX	10.00	Jeanne Senay, Des Peres, MO	5.00
Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA	25.00	H. B. Maddox, Sequim, WA	10.00
Thousand Oaks AVS, Thousand Oaks, CA	50.00	William E. H. Price, Vancouver, BC, Canada	20.00
<i>In memory of Carroll Geally's grandson</i>		Office Violets and Lunch, Houston, TX	10.00
Hattiesburg AVC, Hattiesburg, MS	30.00	Anita McCreary, Middleburg, FL	3.00

# AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Bill Lyons

38 Indian Creek Drive • Levittown, PA 19057

## CONTRIBUTIONS 1 APRIL - 31 MAY 2001

Union County Chapter AVSA, Scotch Plains, NJ . . . . . \$10.00 <i>In lieu of judges travel expense. Jan Murasko, Central Jersey AVS &amp; Fred Hill, Garden State AVC. Apply toward the California Microfilm Project.</i>	Thurlo Schindler, Solana Beach, CA. . . . . \$50.00 <i>In loving memory of Dorothee Schindler. Apply to the California Microfilm Project.</i>
Geneva Stagg, Germantown, TN . . . . . 7.00	AVS Bergen County, NJ . . . . . 10.00 <i>In lieu of judges travel expense - Fred Hill, Garden State AVC and Bob Kurzynski, Morris County AVC. Apply toward the California Microfilm Project.</i>
Morris County AVC, Morristown, NJ . . . . . 20.00 <i>In lieu of judges travel expense. Fred Hill, Garden State AVC, Jan Murasko, Central Jersey AVS, Laurel Brown and Susan Armao, Burlingtown County AVC. Apply to the California Microfilm Project.</i>	Gwen Goodship-Patience, Slough, England . . . . . 10.00
Karyn Cichocki, Lafayette, NJ . . . . . 25.00 <i>In lieu of speakers fee for AVS Staten Island, NY.</i>	Enid Wood, Menlo Park, CA . . . . . 5.00 <i>Apply toward the California Microfilm Project.</i>
Nancy Hayes, Bloomfield, CT . . . . . 15.00 <i>In lieu of speakers fee for Silvermine AVS, Stamford, CT. Apply to California Microfilm Project.</i>	Itsuko Ishimoto, Honolulu, HI. . . . . 25.00
Edna Rourke, Shelton, CT . . . . . 15.00 <i>In lieu of speakers fee for Silvermine AVS, Stamford, CT. Apply toward the California Microfilm Project.</i>	Iain James, Vancouver, BC, Canada . . . . . 10.00 <i>In lieu of postage for 'vintage violets' leaves supplied by Janet Riemer, Pennington, NJ. Apply to the California Microfilm Project.</i>
Doris Acree, McKenzie, TX. . . . . 5.00	Cynthia de Corres, Republic of Panama . . . . . 20.00
Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ . . . . . 10.00	Mrs. Harue Tezuka, Yokohama, Japan . . . . . 410.00 <i>Apply to the California Microfilm Project.</i>
Tracy Burlison, Columbia, SC . . . . . 5.00	Mary Boland, Alexandria, VA . . . . . 50.00 <i>To honor Kay and Bill Lyons for all their devotion to AVSA.</i>
Nancy Di Paola, West Covina, CA . . . . . 5.00 <i>Apply to the California Microfilm Project.</i>	AVSA Booster Fund Promotion Table, Chicago, IL . . . . . 1,214.25 <i>Apply to the California Microfilm Project.</i>
Allen Krueger, Zanesville, OH. . . . . 10.00	
Les Yoder, Battle Creek, MI. . . . . 20.00	A BIG, BIG "THANK YOU", to all who helped man the promotion table or who donated merchandise to the Booster Fund. Shirley Berger, Sebring, FL; Janet Riemer, Pennington, NJ; Edna Rourke, Shelton, CT; Charlene Boyce, N. Branford, CT; Laurene Jones, Annadale, VA; Itsuko Ishimoto, Honolulu, HI; Frances Ratte, Black Hawk, CO; Lisa DiMambro, Chester, NH; Pat Hancock, West Chester, OH; Linda Colburn, Sebring, FL; Gertrude Morabito, Painesville, OH; Elaine Gordon, Elgin, IL; Annamarie Mays, Alexandria, VA; Bill Krewer, Arlington Hgts, IL; Kazuo Horikoshi, Tokyo, Japan; Sue Hoffman, Virginia Beach, VA; Jack & Pat Wilson, Manassas, VA; Jenny Daugeau, Beaumont, TX; Corrie van Heerden, Gardenia Park, South Africa and Kay and Bill Lyons, Levittown, PA.
Kathleen Stottle, Pittsfield, MA . . . . . 5.00	
Elizabeth Tan, Princeton, NJ . . . . . 20.00	
Jean Church, Jerusalem, AR . . . . . 3.00	
Spring Branch AVC, Houston, TX . . . . . 25.00	
Hattiesburg, AVC, Hattiesburg, MS . . . . . 25.00	
AVS Lower Bucks County, Levittown, PA. . . . . 30.00 <i>In lieu of judges travel expense, Jan Murasko, Central Jersey AVS, Heather Menzel, Garden State AVC, Janet Riemer, Union County AVS, Jill Fischer, Morris County AVC, Marion Gershon and Judy Smith, AVS Philadelphia, PA. Apply toward the California Microfilm Project.</i>	
	<b>TOTAL: . . . . . \$2,059.25</b>



## THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS DECEMBER 31, 2000

ASSETS	2000	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents . . . . .	\$ 89,577	Payroll and sales tax liabilities . . . . .	\$ 1,497
Investments . . . . .	123,639	Deferred advertising income . . . . .	6,450
Miscellaneous receivable . . . . .	235	Deferred membership fees . . . . .	\$ 60,444
Inventory . . . . .	10,655	Deferred life memberships . . . . .	109,785
Prepaid expenses . . . . .	10,984	Deferred income, future conventions . . . . .	2,970
<b>Total current assets . . . . .</b>	<b>235,090</b>	Deferred revenue - other . . . . .	4,511
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b> , net of accumulated depreciation of \$98,442 and \$87,358 . . . . .	<b>105,026</b>	<b>Total current liabilities . . . . .</b>	<b>185,657</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS:</b>		<b>NEW ASSETS:</b>	
Reorganization costs net of accumulated amortization of \$4,880 and \$4,880 . . . . .	-	Unrestricted:	
<b>PERMANENT RESTRICTED ASSETS:</b>		Operating . . . . .	(2,277)
Investments . . . . .	32,500	Board designated - Convention . . . . .	22,860
<b>Total assets . . . . .</b>	<b>\$372,616</b>	Board designated - Life Membership . . . . .	957
		Board designated - Boyce Edens . . . . .	26,428
		Board designated - Hudson Awards . . . . .	1,464
		Property and Equipment . . . . .	105,026
		<b>Total unrestricted net assets . . . . .</b>	<b>154,458</b>
		Temporarily restricted . . . . .	1
		Permanent restricted . . . . .	32,500
		<b>Total net assets . . . . .</b>	<b>186,959</b>
		<b>Total liabilities and net assets . . . . .</b>	<b>\$372,616</b>

# Showcase

## *Paumanok*

2001 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: **Tony Hulleman**

Hybridized by: **T. Weber**

*Large*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Rhapsodie Clementine*

From Best Holtkamp Collection

2001 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: **Kathy Lahti**

Hybridized by: **Holtkamp**

*Standard*



Photo Credit: Winston Goretsky



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Peppermint Girl*

*Best Miniature*

*2nd Best African Violet*

*2001 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Dolores Gibbs*

*Hybridized by: H. Pittman*

# Trailing African Violets, It's a Long, Long Trail

by Anne Tinari

Many years ago, when African violets were becoming popular, yet few varieties were available, interest in *Saintpaulia* species suddenly rose to a fever pitch. The origin and history of the African violet became an important topic among violet hobbyists. As a result, several little-known African violet species were imported, among them *Saintpaulia grotei*. This species was discovered in the forests of east Africa in what was then Tanganyika. In its natural habitat, this plant grew near the Usambara Mountains in heavy shade with well-drained soil and an abundance of moisture.

*S. grotei* was unique among African violets in that it possessed a climbing habit. When grown in home conditions, it tends to trail unless supported. Its round leaves are slightly spooned with medium green, deeply serrated edges, and its leaf stems (petioles) are thin, dark, brown and flexible. The small, medium blue flowers with slightly darker centers do not make it a particularly handsome plant. However, this species possessed enough fascinating qualities to make it an integral part of the hybridizing frenzy that was to follow.

Species (wild) plants are rarely as attractive as cultivated varieties, but studying them and becoming familiar with their habitat is of great value to a plant breeder. The first hybrid cross made with this species was with 'Sailor Girl'. The results were hardly overwhelming. Hundreds of seedlings were produced, but none of exceptional beauty. The flowers were small, about the size of a dime, and were all shades of blue. Only one seedling, 'Wild Girl' was chosen from this generation to use in further hybridizing. As the name implies, its foliage - coarse with an interesting toothed edge - had a white spot at the base, known as "girl type foliage". It was the one plant, among a large group of seedlings that stood out from the rest. Although it wasn't a trailer, with its great floriferousness and unusual foliage, it offered much promise of improvement through further hybridizing efforts.

The next cross, between 'Wild Girl' and *S. grotei*, did produce seedlings with definite trailing characteristics, larger flowers, and a more extensive color range. These plants were finally evaluated on the basis of floriferousness, color, and trailing characteristics. As a result, more crosses were made.

In 1954, the first trailers were registered with the African Violet Society of America, Inc. and offered in catalogs. Six varieties were chosen, grown, and exhibited for the first time at the National African Violet Convention Show in St. Louis, Missouri.

## Some Earlier Cultivars

Some of the original cultivars selected for exhibit were: 'Sky Trailer', a soft, pale sky gray-blue with double flowers;

'Royal Blue Trailer' with deep purple flowers and attractive green foliage, red reverse underneath, and single to semi-double blossoms with a bright yellow pollen center; 'Snow Trailer' with glistening white blossoms of good form and size, sometimes lightly tinged in blue; and 'Star Trailer', one of my favorites, with blue two-tone blossoms. Some of these varieties are still available today.

Over the years, the increasing popularity of hanging plants has made trailing African violets an important part of African violet culture. Many varieties and types are now available. Some popular large sized (standard) trailers are 'Sky Trailer', 'Cherry Blossom Trail', 'Honeysuckle Rose', 'Crafty Farmer', 'Sweetheart Trailer' and 'Royal Blue Trailer'. In the semi-miniature class, you'll note 'Falling Snow' (pure white), 'Pixie Blue', 'Ramblin Starlight', 'Rosina', 'Fun Trail' and 'Happy Trail'. Variegated types are also popular, including 'Fancy Trail', 'Ramblin Sunshine' and 'Pixie Runaround'. Several miniatures are also attractive and popular. Among them are 'Honey Bun Trail', 'West Trail', 'Nancy Hayes' and 'Tiny Wood Trail'.

## Growing Trailers to Perfection

You can grow trailing African violets in various ways: in a hanging pot, a strawberry jar, or a pedestal-type container. The small miniatures look wonderful in terrariums. Trailers enhance oriental scenes in making African violet arrangements. Recently I saw, in the lush, moist atmosphere of a private conservatory, a beautiful plant of 'Royal Blue Trailer' in a 10-inch (25 cm) wire hanging basket wrapped in sphagnum moss and filled with potting mix. The plant was large and symmetrical with many stems cascading from the main stalk. It was covered with vibrant purple blossoms and outstanding yellow pollen centers. When I inquired about its care, the owners told me they had simply forgotten it was there, but guests had made it a conversation piece. Once established, it required very little care and was so tough they had to remove stems occasionally to keep it in proper proportion.

Caring for trailing African violets is simple. Never allow them to dry out, yet do not over-water. They prefer to be slightly moist and do well in natural light. If you are using artificial light, place them at the end of the light fixtures.

Regular fertilizing is very important. Trailers are prolific both in flower and foliage. Add 1/4 teaspoon of African violet fertilizer to a gallon of water at every watering. A light, warm spray once a month keeps a trailer in top condition. Use this spray occasionally to foliar feed by adding fertilizer to the water. Spray only when out of strong light or sun. They will develop yellow leaves under extreme temperature changes or

burning sunlight.

Trailers look best in containers that display their unique form. Hanging pots (the plastic types) are usually easier to handle, remain warmer, and better supply the conditions trailers prefer. Pinch to one crown with three trailing branches, and make an effort to keep the plant in a good circular form. This produces trailing stems that hang like a pendulum from the main branch. These violets thrive in a diffused sunlight, in a fresh, moist, buoyant atmosphere.

### More to Come

The future holds many possibilities for the trailing African violet. We can look forward to trailing types with filled or ruffled blossoms, fantasy blossoms, Geneva types and new leaf forms. Most of the new and unusual colors and forms we enjoy in standard varieties of African violets either are or will soon be available in trailing violets.

*From African Violet Leaves, publication of the Illinois AVS*

## WHAT'S THAT GREEN STUFF IN MY RESERVOIRS?

by Sue Gardner

If we wick water, at some stage we will invariably find green stuff in the reservoirs.

The green stuff is an alga (plural algae) which is a plant. There are many different types of algae, but the ones that grow in our reservoirs are usually single celled, clumps of cells, or filamentous forms. They do not have stems, roots, or leaves. They are usually bright green in color, which tells us they are not the blue-green algae that can poison our waterways.

How does it get there?

Algae occur naturally in water - in streams, dams, puddles, in wet soil, etc. In dry conditions they exist in a dormant state, often in dust which can blow about and spread. When they meet water again, they rehydrate and continue in their usual form. It is easy to see how they could appear in our reservoirs.

What makes it grow?

Algae may be present in the water of our reservoirs, but cannot grow without light and food. Because we put fertilizer in the water and place our plants in good light, the algae are provided with good conditions in which to grow.

Does it harm our plants?

Because the algae that usually grow in our reservoirs are not poisonous, they will not harm our plants.

However, because they use up the fertilizer in the reservoir, the plant does not get its necessary supply of food. If the plant always has a reservoir full of algae, it could result in slow development and other problems.

Should we get rid of it?

To keep our plants growing well, we should keep the reservoirs clean. Don't panic if you occasionally find algae, just clean it out.

How do we prevent it?

Some people add chemicals which prevent algae growth to the reservoirs. These are obtainable at aquarium shops as they are used to keep fish tanks clear of algae.

Some growers use Alginox (swimming pool algicide obtained in supermarkets) in wick watering reservoirs under fluorescent lights. If you grow in natural light, others add a few drops of chlorine to the reservoirs.

I prefer not to use any unnecessary chemicals. The best method to prevent algae growth is to prevent light penetrating the reservoirs. Use dark colored or opaque containers and you will not have any algae! I use dark blue ice cream containers (1 litre) which are very effective.

If you really want to use white trays or clear plastic reservoirs, you will need to keep cleaning them.

## ATTENTION: AFFILIATE CLUB PUBLICITY CHAIRMEN

When submitting a notice for Coming Events, please follow these suggestions:

1. Follow the format of the events listed in the Coming Events section of this magazine.  
Date of Event - State  
Name of Club, Kind of Event  
Location  
Address  
Time  
Info Contact
2. Do your best to observe the deadline dates listed in **AVSA Information** located on the inside front cover of this magazine. Please do not send them in a week

before the magazine is to be mailed. They will NOT be listed.

3. ALL Coming Events notices must be received in writing - either by email, US Mail or FAX. Coming Events will NOT be taken over the phone.
4. Please do not send several copies of your event notice. Please do not have several club members send the same notice. One is appreciated.
5. See that all pertinent information on your notice is spelled correctly. Ensure that all dates, addresses, phone numbers, etc. are correct.

If you have questions about listing an event, PLEASE give me a call. I will help you in any way I can. Ed.

# Showcase

## *Dean's Ruby*

Exhibited by: *Fay Wagman*

Hybridized by: *K. Hobbs-Gregg*

*Semiminiature*



Photo Credit: *Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Sticky Spring Trail*

Exhibited by: *Gini McCanne*

*Semiminiature Trailer*



Photo Credit: *Winston J. Goretsky*



# AVSA Judges, Affiliates & Commercial Members - 2000

## <sup>J</sup>AVSA Judges, <sup>X</sup>Senior Judges, <sup>M</sup>Master Judges, <sup>S</sup>Student Judges, <sup>T</sup>Teachers and <sup>ME</sup>Master Emeritus

(**Editors Note:** If your name does not appear below, check to see if your dues and judges certificates are current.)

### CANADA

#### ALBERTA

- <sup>J</sup> Den Oudsten, Maida, 4424 35 Ave SW, Calgary, T3E 1B3
- <sup>J</sup> Douglas, Mrs F M, 232 Southampton Dr SW, Calgary, T2W 0V7
- <sup>S</sup> Goretsky, Laurel D, 32 Scimitar Point NW, Calgary, T3L 2B2
- <sup>X</sup> Goretsky, Winston J, 32 Scimitar Point NW, Calgary, T3L 2B2
- <sup>J</sup> Gratto, Mrs M R, 4206 33rd St, Red Deer, T4N 0N2
- <sup>S</sup> Laakso, Twyla, 4404 17th St SW, Calgary, T2T 4P8
- <sup>J</sup> Liberty, Gabriela, 196 Douglas Ridge Close SE, Calgary, T2Z 2P6
- <sup>J</sup> Melnechuk, Jean, 332 Point Mckay Cdws Nw, Calgary, T3B 4V8
- <sup>S</sup> Pohl, LaRae, 7544 152 C Ave, Edmonton, T5C 3L3
- <sup>J</sup> Rousseau, Elizabeth A, #30 10401 19 St SW, Calgary, T2W 3E7
- <sup>S</sup> Smythe, Reta, 6607 34th St SW, Calgary, T3E 5M3

#### NEW BRUNSWICK

- <sup>X</sup> Bell, Jean, 38497 Rt 2, Long Creek, E4C 1J2
- <sup>X</sup> Belliveau, Eva, 10 Vista Dr, Moncton, E1A 4L5
- <sup>J</sup> Boyd, Sherin, 211 Charlotte St, Saint John, E2M 1Y2
- <sup>J</sup> Brooks, Susan A, 260 Douglas Ave, Saint John, E2K 1E6
- <sup>X</sup> Hughes, M Louise, 14 McArthur Ave, Moncton, E1C 3L8
- <sup>X</sup> Moffett, Anne, 80 Moffett Ave, Sussex, E4E 3Y1

#### NOVA SCOTIA

- <sup>J</sup> Beaver, Ina, 41 James Roy Dr, Porters Lake, B3E H9
- <sup>J</sup> Brown, Anne M, 2831 Doug Smith Dr, Halifax, B3L 3T6
- <sup>S</sup> Moir, Audrey, 1 Oak St Apt 202, Dartmouth, B3A 1Y7
- <sup>TX</sup> Wiseman, Lois, 45 Shea St, Sackville, B42 2BC

#### ONTARIO

- <sup>J</sup> Beeching, Vivian, 648 Hillman Cres, Mississauga, L4Y 2H9
- <sup>X</sup> Biljan, Angele, 5 Oakridge Blvd, Nepean, K2G 2T6
- <sup>M</sup> Brownlie, Doris M, 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga, L5A 2B4
- <sup>J</sup> Clarke, W E, 35 Solva Dr, Nepean, K2H 5R7
- <sup>J</sup> Conlin-Lane, Carolyn, 57 Hillbeck Cres, Scarborough, M1B 2M8
- <sup>S</sup> Cotton, Robin, 154 Kanata Dr, PO Box 173, Grafton, K0K 2G0
- <sup>S</sup> Curcuruto, Bruno, 111 Arleta Ave, North York, M3L 2J7
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**Carlsbad AVS**, Barbara Conrad, President, 3435 Jasmine Crst, Encinitas, 92024-7036

**Central California AVS**, Stanley Barnes, President, 2563 Richert Ave, Clovis, 93611-6034

**Delta Gesneriad and AVS**, Oscar Faoro, President, 7361 22nd St, Sacramento, 95822-4911

**Fancy Bloomers AVS**, Byron Borck, President, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa, 95403-2632

**Fantasy Violeteers**, Briony Gniechwitz, President, 50 Medley Ln, Oroville, 95966

**Foothill AVS**, Chris Hedberg, President, 1627 Brigden Rd, Pasadena, 91104-3128

**Granada Hills AVS**, George Delafrance, President, 8835 Swinton Ave, North Hills, 91343-4723

**Humboldt County AVS**, Linda Bettiga, President, PO Box 68, Loleta, 95551-0068

**Montrose AVS**, Donna Kirkland, President, 2323 Blackmore Dr, Glendale, 91206-3008

**Orange County AVS**, Diane Miller, President, 7056 E Country Club Ln, Anaheim, 92807-4414

**Pomono Valley AVS**, Bobby Jean Crain, President, 290 Quarry Rd, Roseburg, OR, 97470-9453

**Reno-Sparks AVS**, Kathy Roubal, President, HC 1 Box 9, Chilcoot, 96105-9501

**San Fernando Valley AVS**, Harriett Kerwin, President, 8430 Ranchito Ave, Panorama City, 91402-3802

**San Joaquin AVS**, Pat A. Soares, President, 408 N Sherman Ave, Manteca, 95336-3907

**San Mateo County AVS**, Charmion Woolfe, President, 1715 Valley View Ave, Belmont, 94002-1939

**Sierra Violet Lovers**, Connie Byars, President, 24225 Road 224, Lindsay, 93247-9000

**South Coast AVS**, Jacquie Eisenhut, President, 22800 Eriel Ave, Torrance, 90505-3011

**Thousand Oaks AVS**, Marcia Shaver, President, 1187 Buckingham Dr, Thousand Oaks, 91360-5204

**Town and Country AVS**, Olive I. Pratt, President, 25010 Tulip Ave, Loma Linda, 92354-3446

**Tustana AVS**, Karen M. Stevenson, President, 39 Canyon Crest Dr, Corona del Mar,

**Ventura County AVS**, Robert Seaton, President, 864 Milton Ave, Ventura, 93003-4917

#### COLORADO

**Gesneriad AV Club**, Allison Bringham, President, 1122 8th St, Golden, 80401-1009

**Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers**, Jean Miller, President, 6661 Upham Dr, Arvada, 80003-3943

**Happiness Is AVS**, Betty E. Margetts, President, 1603 Linden St, Longmont, 80501-2451

**Hi Country Judges Workshop**, Shirley Mitchell, President, 2200 Stanford Rd, Fort Collins, 80525-1415

**Loveland Sweetheart Violetes**, Trudy Brekel, President, 14442 Garfield St, Brighton, 80602-7738

**Rocky Mountain AV Council**, Harry Weber, President, 3003 Spring Mountain Dr, Loveland, 80537-7428

**The AVS of Denver Chapter 1**, Fran Ratte, President, PO Box 382, Black Hawk, 80422-0382

**The Violeteers**, Jean McIlvanie, President, 1919 Yosemite St, Denver, 80220-2254

**Ultra Violet Club**, Geneva Holmes, President, 8810 Hooker Way, Westminster, 80031-3336

#### CONNECTICUT

**Central Connecticut AVS**, Florence England, President, 137 Pheasant Dr, Rocky Hill, 06067-2062

**Naugatonic AVS**, Edna Rourke, President, 99 Old Stratford Rd, Shelton, 06484-6129

**Nutmeg State AVS**, Edna Rourke, President, 99 Old Stratford Rd, Shelton, 06484-6129

**Silvermine AVS**, Marjorie Rosenberg, President, 21 Cardinal Rd, Weston, 06883-2404

**Thimble Island AVS**, Richard Bower, President, 239 Fort Path Rd, Madison, 06443-2216

**Windsor AVS**, Sylvia Taub, President, 141 Eastview Dr, Windsor, 06095-1829

#### DELAWARE

**Delaware AVS**, Barbara Borleske, President, 39 Slashpin Cir, Hockessin 19707-9206

## FLORIDA

- AV Council of Florida**, Phyllis King, President, 11752 111th Terrance N, Seminole, 33778
- AVC of Daytona**, Pat Crowley, President, 3051 Princeton Ave, Daytona Beach, 32118-3130
- AVS of Fort Walton Beach**, Frances Crissman, President, PO Box 415, Shalimar, 32579-0415
- AVS of Pensacola**, George Starr, President, 2602 Graupera St, Pensacola, 32507
- AVS Of SW Florida**, Lillian C. Scott, President, 1911 SE 32nd St, Cape Coral, 33904-4092
- Edison AVC**, Jean West, President, 2010 SE 28th St, Cape Coral, 33904-3255
- Fantasy VC**, Fran Carson, President, 3152 Deltona Blvd, Spring Hill, 34606-3114
- First Lakeland AVS**, Marvin Nester, President, 425 Aberdeen Ct N, Lakeland, 33813-1602
- Heart of Florida**, Ron Bannister, President, 695 Bear Creek Ct, Winter Springs, 32708-3646
- Heart of Jacksonville AVS**, Lucy Walls, President, 11453 Americana Ln, Jacksonville, 32218-4045
- Mid Polk AVS**, Shirley Berger, President, 4343 Schumacher Rd, Sebring, 33872-2614
- North Lake AV Society**, L Fyrne Overley, President, 38725 Grays Airport Rd, Lady Lake, 32159-4001
- Sarasota AVS**, Deborah Conley, President, 2824 Wilkinson Rd, Sarasota, 34231-2800
- Summer Lace AVS**, Gail Chase, President, 1528 Pineview Dr, Tallahassee, 32301-4918
- Suncoast AVS**, Karen Boosinger, President, 10836 Forest Run Cir, Bradenton, 34202-9743
- Tampa AVS**, Lynne Wilson, President, 645 Hudson Ave, Tampa, 33606-3926
- Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society**, Jo Anne Martinez, President, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa, 33613-1048
- The Nite Bloomers AVS**, Kym Belvin, President, 9153 Runnymede Rd, Jacksonville, 32257-5243
- The Violet Patch of South Florida**, Peggy Madison, President, 15831 SW 54th Pl, Fort Lauderdale, 33331-3376
- Treasure Coast AVS**, Doug Hilzey, President, 421 SW Kentwood Rd, Port Saint Lucie, 34953-6214
- Upper Pinellas AVS**, Angela H. Newell, President, 8205 Vassar Cir, Tampa, 33634-2275

## GEORGIA

- AVC of Greater Atlanta**, Sarah McGaha, President, 4925 Howard Rd, Cumming, 30040-5207
- Dixie AVS**, Pierce Cumpston, President, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins, 31088-4170
- Georgia African Violet Growers**, Joan F Cumpston, President, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins, 31088-4170
- Georgia AV Judges Society**, Margie L Kotlear, President, 112 Skyview Ct, Athens, 30606-3847
- Georgia State AV Council**, Kathy Spissman, President, 4086 Brownlee Dr, Tucker, 30084-6113
- High Hopes VC of South Atlanta**, Susan Wilson, President, 1193 Vineyard Rd, Griffin, 30223-8735
- Master City AV & Gesneriad Society**, Sharon Miles, President, 1954 Liberty Church Rd, Hephzibah, 30815-4421
- Tara AVC**, Shelby Dixon, President, 95 Ridgecrest Way, Stockbridge, 30281-1301

## HAWAII

- AVS of Hawaii**, Stanley A. Jackson, President, 2281 Ala Wai Blvd Apt 702, Honolulu

## ILLINOIS

- AVS of Northern Illinois**, Edward Johnson, President, 4901 N Ozanam Ave, Norridge, 60706-3203
- Barrington Bloomers AVS**, Nikki Collard, President, 27547 N Forest Garden Rd, Wauconda, 60084-2841
- Fox Valley AVS**, Andrea Worrell, President, 619 Franklin St, Downers Grove, 60515-3853
- Glenview/North Shore AVS**, Barbara Goodsell, President, 429 Cherry Ln, Glenview, 60025-4576
- Illinois AVS Inc**, Anna Jean Landgren, President, 2450 Iroquois Rd, Wilmette, 60091-1368
- Lake Shore AVS**, Morgan Simmons, President, 2210 Hartzell St, Evanston, 60201-1424
- Margaret Scott AVS**, Lois Crider, President, 2172 County Road 1850 N, Saint Joseph, 61873-9408
- Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society**, Russell White, President, PO Box 1360, Lake Geneva, WI, 53147-6360
- Quad Cities AVS**, John Jugenheimer, President, 14 Hickory Hls, Geneseo, 61254-9000
- Twin Cities AVS**, Arlene Ashley, President, RR 6 35 Mark Ln, Bloomington, 61704-9806
- Wandering African Violet Enthusiasts Society**, Martha Menard, President, 415B N 4 1/2 St, Murphysboro, 62966-2207

## INDIANA

- Hoosier African Violet Society**, Jean G. Willey, President, 851 Kenmare Pkwy, Crown Point, 46307-2654
- Indy African Violet Club**, Kathie Jeffries, President, 11200 S US Highway 31, Elizabethtown, 47232-9576

## IOWA

- Cedar Valley Violet Club**, Marilyn Thornton, President, 284 Sheridan Rd, Waterloo, 50701-4022
- Evening AVC Des Moines**, Ginny Nelson, President, 1633 63rd St, Des Moines, 50322-5947

## KANSAS

- Lawrence AVC**, Raymond Russell, President, 807 W 27th Ter, Lawrence, 66046-4617
- Midwest AV Judges Council**, Pat Richards, President, 15105 S Seminole Dr, Olathe, 66062-3004
- Topeka AVS**, Jean Patterson, President, 1247 SW Fillmore St, Topeka, 66604-1166
- Wichita AV Study Club**, Mary A. Smith, President, 2034 S Park Rdg, Wichita, 67209-3279

## KENTUCKY

- AVS of Kentuckiana**, Charlotte Stewart, President, 4511 Shenandoah Dr, Louisville, 40241-1865
- Cincinnati AVS**, Penny Wichman, President, 2560 Hathaway Rd, Union, 41091-9705
- Fort Massie AVS**, Deborah Kelsy, President, 30 Martin Cir, Paducah, 42001-5410

## LOUISIANA

- Jefferson AV Association**, Wynne Voorhees, President, 3720 Tartan Dr, Metairie, 70003-1640
- Lafayette AVC**, Nora Cage, President, 106 Wedgewood Dr, Lafayette, 70503-3236
- Louisiana Cncl of Av Jdgs & Growers**, Mary McFarland, President, 745 Parlange Dr, Baton Rouge, 70806-1844
- Sundowners AVS**, Robert Truax, President, 408 Hearthstone Dr, Baton Rouge, 70806-5007
- The Verbeau AVC**, Jo Beth Jeane, President, 197 William Ray Jeane Rd, Leesville, 71446-6944

**Top Choice AVS**, Flora Nugent, President, 7933 Timmons Trl, Shreveport, 71107-9456

#### MARYLAND

**Baltimore AVC**, Janet Haag, President, 524 Murdock Rd, Baltimore, 21212-2020

**Potomac Council of AV Judges**, Gary Gordon, President, 120 Brinkwood Rd, Brookeville, 20833-2307

#### MASSACHUSETTS

**All Seasons AVC**, Nancy Manozzi, President, 373 Singletary Ln, Framingham, 01702-6128

**Bay State AVS**, Carol Hess, President, 7 Gibbs St, Framingham, 01701-4515

**Emerald Necklace AVC**, Ruth Grieco, President, 32 Saint Paul St, Brookline, 02446-6570

**Moby Dick AVC**, John Cook, President, 28 Minot St, Falmouth, 02540-2840

#### MICHIGAN

**Michigan State AVS**, Loreen Callentne, President, 2850 Green Rd, West Branch, 48661-9609

**Town & Country AVC**, Chris Leppard, President, 1884 Mill Pond Dr, Oxford, 48371-6035

#### MINNESOTA

**AVS of Minnesota**, Kathy Lahti, President, 4157 Oliver Ave NW, Annandale, 55302-3614

**Judges Council of Minnesota**, Sandy Officer, President, 8920 Southwood Dr, Bloomington, 55437-1744

**Lakes Area Violet Growers**, Ken Rein, President, 1492 Hamline Ave N, Saint Paul, 55108-2350

**North Star AV Council**, Gail Podany, President, 5256 Beachside Dr, Minnetonka, 55343-4322

#### MISSISSIPPI

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**Volunteer State AV Council**, Brenda Brasfield, President, 6210 Spring Creek Dr, Olive Branch, 38654-9360

#### MISSOURI

**Amethyst AVC**, Carolyn Burr, President, 910 Almond Hill Ct, Manchester, 63021-7004

**AVC of Greater Kansas City**, Marsha Loveland, President, 11303 S Alley Jackson Rd, Grain Valley, 64029-9506

**Gateway West Gesneriad Society**, Gary Dunlap, President, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708

**Heart of Missouri AVS**, Catherine Ross, President, RR 2 Box 165, Moberly, 65270-9620

**Inner City AVS**, Barbara Fisher, President, 5119 Longhorn Trl, Florissant, 63033-7706

**Katy Trail African Violet Club**, Glenda Holm, President, 8 Linda Ln, Saint Peters, 63376-3405

**M K O African Violet Society**, Doris F. Carson, President, 1702 S Joplin Ave, Joplin, 64804-0649

**Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council**, Nancy Amelung, President, 9708 Greenwood Ter, Rock Hill, 63119-1304

**Mid-America AVS**, Nancy Moerer, President, 413 NE 114th Ter, Kansas City, 64155-1231

**Missouri Valley AV Council**, Ramona Donnell, President, PO Box 959, Carl Junction, 64834-0959

**Sho-Me AVC**, Doris Brown, President, 33706 E Spencer Rd, Oak Grove, 64075-7249

**Springfield Chapter of AVS**, Bonnie Bailey, President, 2157 N Benton Ave, Springfield, 65803-3035

**St Louis AV Judges Council**, Helen Blanton, President, 622 Riverside Dr, St Charles, 63304-7945

**The Unpredictable's AVS**, Deanna Loeffler, President, 5301 Noland Rd, Kansas City, 64133-2613

**West County AVC**, Doris Natale, President, 2325 E Royal Ct, Saint Louis, 63131-1941

#### MONTANA

**Billings Bloomers AVS**, Betty Teigen, President, 2033 Avenue D, Billings, 59102-2745

#### NEBRASKA

**Happy Hour Violet Club**, Dorothy Elliot, President, 300 S 7th St Apt 2, Tekamah, 68061-1497

**Lincoln AVS**, Bj Ohme, President, 1136 A St Apt 3, Lincoln, 68502-1236

**Omaha African Violet Society**, Francis Larson, President, 5605 N 78th Ave, Omaha, 68134-2220

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE

**The Quannapowitt AVC**, Lisa DiMambro, President, 182 Old Chester Tpke, Chester, 03036-4016

#### NEW JERSEY

**AV Club of Burlington County**, Sandra Skalski, President, 516 MacIntosh Dr, Mullica Hill, 08062-9474

**AVC of Morris County**, Jill Fischer, President, 59 River Bend Rd, Berkeley Heights, 07922-1812

**Bergen County AVS**, Jean Keil, President, 135 Bell Ave, Hasbrouck Heights, 07604-1419

**Central Jersey AVS**, Anita Bear, President, 9 Iris Ct, Holmdel, 07733-2904

**Garden State AVC**, Robert C. Hughes, President, 66 Back Bone Hill Rd, Clarksburg, 08510-1801

**New Jersey Cncl/AV Judges**, Stephen Burrell, President, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fish Kill NY, 12524-2446

**Seaview AVS**, Lew Whitaker, President, 30 Grand Teton Ave, Howell, 07731-9000

**TriState AV Council**, Fred Hill, President, 88 Horseshoe Ln S Columbus, 08022-1062

**Union County Chapter AVS**, Janet Riemer, President, 256 Pennington Harbourton Rd, Pennington

#### NEW MEXICO

**Albuquerque AVC**, Margaret Schmierer, President, 5010 Crownpoint Ct NW, Albuquerque, 87120-1112

#### NEW YORK

**AVS of Greater New York**, Edie DeGaetano, President, 82 Lakeshore Dr, Eastchester, 10709-5210

**AVS of Rochester**, Barbara Gogoll, President, 804 Burritt Rd, Hilton, 14468-9725

**AVS of Syracuse**, Peter Thompson, President, 212 Locksley Rd, Syracuse, 13224-1827

**AVS of Western New York**, Judy Niemira, President, 12 Dappled Dr, East Amherst, 14051-1420

**Capital District AVS**, Margaret Califano, President, 72 Glendale Ave, Albany, 12208-3122

**Copper City AVS**, Robin Yager, President, RR 1 Box 540C, Blossvale, 13308

**Heritage AVS of Long Island**, Joseph J. Svitak, Sr, President, 8551 169th St, Jamaica, 11432-2629

**Hudson Highland AVS**, Carol Ann Burrell, President, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill, 12524-2446  
**Long Island AVS**, Florence Schnauffer, President, 3392 Colony Dr, Baldwin, 11510-5116  
**Mark Twain AVS**, Susan Nickerson, President, 614 Reynolds St, Elmira, 14904-2219  
**Metropolitan Regional Council of AV Judges**, Claire J. Schirtzer, President, 158 W Hudson St, Long Beach, 11561-1925  
**New York State AVS**, Claire J. Schirtzer, President, 158 W Hudson St, Long Beach, 11561-1925  
**Saintpaulia Society of Long Island**, Claire J. Schirtzer, President, 158 W Hudson St, Long Beach, 11561-1925  
**Sweet Water AVS**, Carolyn Klein, President, 10239 85th Rd, Richmond Hill, 11418-1107  
**The AVS of Staten Island**, Margaret Scheller, President, 58 Wolcott Ave, Staten Island, 10312-3106

#### NORTH CAROLINA

**First Goldsboro AVS**, Kay Mitchell, President, 3290 US Highway 70 W, Goldsboro, 27530-9566  
**Mid-Atlantic AVS**, Linda Abplanalp, President, 3134 Truitt Dr, Burlington, 27215-4660  
**Piedmont-Triad AVS**, Mary Cundiff, President, 5401 Forest Oaks Dr, Greensboro, 27406-8317  
**Triangle AVS**, Libbie Glembocki, President, 103 Downing Pl, Apex, 27502-9342

#### OHIO

**AVS of Dayton**, Margaret Newill, President, 10245 Virginia Lee Dr, Dayton, 45458-4424  
**Columbus AVS**, Linda Owens, President, 1762 Stemwood Dr, Columbus, 43228  
**Parmatown AVC**, Martha Bell, President, 5974 Boston Rd, Valley City, 44280-9339  
**Springfield AVC**, Betty L. Bartley, President, 3920 Monterey Ave, Springfield, 45504-3513  
**Sunset AVS**, Susan Miller, President, 14240 Mohler Rd, Liberty Center, 43532-9405  
**Town & Country AVS**, Gertrude Morabito, President, 7057 Brightwood Dr, Painesville, 44077-2117  
**Violets & Friends AV Club**, Terena Stotler, President, 1027 State Route 589, Sidney, 45365-8783

#### OKLAHOMA

**AVS of Greater Tulsa**, Judy Carter, President, 1825 W Lincoln St, Broken Arrow, 74012-8509  
**Green Country AV Study Club**, Mary E. Hill, President, 1115 S 129th East Ave, Tulsa, 74108-3901

#### OREGON

**Portland AVS**, Christy Duvendack, President, 17389 Banyon Ln, Lake Oswego, 97034-6901

#### PENNSYLVANIA

**AVS of Central Pennsylvania**, Susan S. Reis, President, 1181 Williams St, State College, 16801-6310  
**AVS of Lower Bucks County**, Joan Reed, President, 119 August Ln, Lansdale, 19446-6715  
**AVS of Philadelphia**, Judith Smith, President, 7809 Conwell Rd, Laverock, 19038-7204  
**AVS of Springfield**, Joan Santino, President, 2621 9th Ave, Boothwyn, 19061-3402  
**The Pittsburgh Violet & Gesneriad Society**, Georgene Albrecht, President, 101 Oak Heights Dr, Oakdale, 15071-1135

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

**First AVS of Spartanburg**, Matgaret Harrelson, President, 110 Cotswold Ave, Moore, 29369-9624  
**Flowertown Violet Club**, Uldene Short, President, 100 Dorsetshire Downs, Summerville, 29485-8608  
**Palmetto AVS**, Trudi W. Christensen, President, 200 Lands End Blvd Apt 1015, Myrtle Beach, 29572-7055

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

**South Dakota AVC**, Miniam Greene, President, 2008 S Blauvelt Ave, Sioux Falls, 57105-3223

#### TENNESSEE

**AVS of East Tennessee**, Glenys Nappo, President, 117 W Bryn Mawr Cir, Oak Ridge, 37830-8208  
**Memphis AVS**, Ann Shirley, President, 7150 Cedar Rd, Memphis, 38135-1904  
**Nashville AVS**, Peggy Adamson, President, 4640 Whites Creek Pike, Whites Creek

#### TEXAS

**Alpha AVS of Dallas**, Mary Lou Saunders, President, 2214 Saharah Dr, Garland, 75044-7165  
**AVS of Beaumont**, Alice Wilder, President, 8895 Jean Dr, Beaumont, 77707-4604  
**Central Texas Judges Council**, Connie Leifeste, President, 12000 Riverview Dr, Woodway, 76712-7608  
**Corpus Christi AVS**, Marcia Pilbin, President, 13806 River Ridge Dr, Corpus Christi, 78410-5228  
**First Austin AVS**, Jeannette Pursley, President, 10606 Man O War Ave, Austin, 78719-9606  
**First AVS of Dallas**, Rae Adams, President, 9212 Lindaro Ln, Dallas, 75228-4424  
**First AVS of Denton**, Anne Nicholas, President, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton, 76208-3428  
**First AVS of Wichita Falls**, Sue Ramser, President, 2413 Martin St, Wichita Falls, 76308-1908  
**First Nighter AVS of Dallas**, Hortense Pittman, President, 7416 County Road 129, Celina, 75009-4704  
**Lone Star AV Council**, Richard Nicholas, President, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton, 76208-3428  
**Magic Knight AVS**, Hector Becerra, Jr, President, 212 Briarcliff Dr, San Antonio, 78213-1935  
**Moonlight AVS**, Bonnie Harris, President, 2908 Fincher Rd, Haltom City, 76117-4417  
**Nasa Area AVS**, Allison Lang, President, 4334 Plover Dr, Seabrook, 77586-2546  
**North Texas AV Judges Council**, Bill Foster, President, 3610 Gray Dr, Mesquite, 75150-2121  
**Office Violets and Lunch**, John Nabers, President, 714 El Toro Ln, Houston, 77062-5008  
**Park Place AV Club**, Janette Regner, President, 7923 Glenlea St, Houston, 77061-2317  
**San Marcos AVC**, Joe Ann Partin, President, 111 Clydesdale Dr, San Marcos, 78666-1144  
**Spring Branch AVC**, Teresa Kaminski, President, 8311 Debbie Gay Dr, Houston, 77040-1501  
**Valley AVS**, Mary Hammar, President, PO Box 108, Donna, 78537-0108  
**Victoria AVS**, Joanne Schrimsher, President, 2205 College Dr, Victoria, 77901-4474  
**West Texas AVS**, Marge Savage, President, 2804 Stutz Dr, Midland, 79705-4928

## UTAH

**AVS of Utah**, Mariela Taddie, President, 7160 Sagebrush Way,  
Salt Lake City, 84121-4357

## VIRGINIA

**Blacksburg AVS**, K C. Arceneaux, President, 707 Ascot Ln,  
Blacksburg, 24060-4032

**Danville AVS**, John Sullivan, President, 781 Inman Rd, Danville,  
24541-8047

**Lynnhaven AVS**, Sandi Flora, President, 8019 Baywood Dr,  
Norfolk, 23518-3145

**Old Dominion AVS of Northern VA**, John Wilson, President,  
10007 Bent Tree Ln, Manassas, 20111-4222

**Richmond AVS**, Sharon Long, President, 1546 Heritage Hill Dr,  
Richmond, 23233-4332

**The Tidewater AVS**, Linda Stinnette, President, 4209 Thistle Dr,  
Portsmouth, 23703-1630

## WASHINGTON

**Longview AVC**, Virginia Bailey, President, 103 John St, Kelso,  
98626-1861

**Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma**, Pat Shandrow, President, 4408  
59th Street Ct E, Tacoma, 98443-2446

**Seattle AVS Inc**, Merri Reese, President, 7317 E Heather Way,  
Everett, 98203-5442

## WISCONSIN

**Crosstown AVC**, Alice Peterson, President, 3611 Mathias Way,  
Verona, 53593-9588

**First AVS of Janesville**, Fay Skews, President, 10933 Cave of  
The Mounds Rd, Blue Mounds, 53517-9617

**Late Bloomers AVS**, Janice Judd, President, W6090 County Road  
P, Monroe, 53566-9662

**Milwaukee AVS**, Joan Wilson, President, W534 Zions Church  
Rd, Theresa, 53091-9732

**Oshkosh Violet Society**, Cathy Heider, President, 4132 Spring  
Rd, Omro, 54963-9767

**River Cities AVC**, JoAnn Marti, President, 6621 Lenox Ave,  
Wisconsin Rapids, 54494-7180

**Sundowners AVC**, Nancy Braun, President, 2277 Gold Dr,  
Madison, 53711-5622

**Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs**, Janice Judd, President, W6090  
County Road P, Monroe, 53566-9662

## WYOMING

**Casper Bloomers**, Jan Yarbrough, President, 1633 Westridge Pl,  
Casper, 82604-3339

**The Sheridan AVC**, Debra Hanson, President, 1615 Holmes Ave,  
Sheridan, 82801-2210

# 2001 AVSA Commercial Members

(Editors Note: This is the Commercial List as reported by the AVSA office as of July 1, 2001. Please contact the office regarding any questions or corrections.)

## CANADA

### ALBERTA

**Bloomin' Basement**, Ingrid Nelson, 224 Douglas Woods Point Se, Calgary, T2Z 2A7

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Violets in Vogue**, Christine Estridge, 9249 Mainwaring Rd, Sidney, V8L 1J9

### ONTARIO

**Aca's Violet-Tree**, John Brownlie, 600 Silvercreek Blvd 80, Mississauga, L5A 2B4

**Dusty's Hybrid African Violets**, Box 56538, Woodbridge, L4L 8V3

**Violet Boutique**, Patricia Orme, 40 Pellan Cres, Kanata, K2K 1J5

## UNITED STATES

### ALASKA

**Beverly's Violets**, Beverly Hendricks, 6311 Debarr Rd Ste Q, Anchorage, 99504-1777

### ARIZONA

**Hattie Baggett**, HC 2 Box 381, Tucson, 85735-9714

**Barbara Fuller**, 409 S Kenyon Dr, Tucson, 85710-1043

**Desert Violets**, Susan Merski, 2511 N Desert Ave, Tucson, 85712-2403

**Dottie's African Violets**, John & Dorothy Greer, 7462 E Desert Aire Dr, Tucson, 85730-3800

**Dr B's Digs**, Barbara Vanderleest, PO Box 733, Carefree, 85377-0733

**Kachina AV and Supplies**, Mark R Lort, 15818 N 52nd St, Scottsdale, 85254-1707

### ARKANSAS

**Sonja's Violets**, Sonja Holm, 15980 Warden Rd, Omaha, 72662-9107

### CALIFORNIA

**Violet Perfection by Gina**, Gini McCanne, 1420 Oxford Ave, Claremont, 91711-3461

**Melvin J Robey**, 53400 Eisenhower Dr, La Quinta, 92253-3466

**Arnold W Mueller**, 1522 Sunset Dr, Vista, 92083-6533

**Daphne W. Kelly**, 5286 E Appian Way, Long Beach, 90803-1914

**AV Enterprises Press**, Pauline Bartholomew, 1404 N Tustin Ave Apt J4, Santa Ana, 92705-8632

**Donnie's African Violets**, Donnie Barnes, 2563 Richert Ave, Clovis, 93611-6034

**Herbal Garden's**, George Walsh, PO Box 38, Montara, 94037

**Hoover's Hybrids**, Daryl Hoover, 1507 W Fern Dr, Fullerton, 92833-2332

**Maril Products, Inc**, Anne Whitehair, 320 W 6th St, Tustin, 92780-4332

**Marteal Ltd**, Dyna-gro, 1065 Broadway Ave, San Pablo, 94806-2260

**Mighty Minis**, Jean Stokes, 7318 Sahara Ct, Sacramento, 95828-3905

**Oyama Planters Inc**, George C Oyama, 1661 Pine St Apt 732, San Francisco Towers, San Francisco,  
**The Velvet Leaf**, Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgecrest Dr, Colfax, 95713-9218

## COLORADO

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**The Green Thumb**, Liz I Cassidy, 11884 Claude Ct, Northglenn, 80233-1310

**The Violet Showcase**, Douglas Crispin, 3147 S Broadway, Englewood, 80110-2423

**Violets of the West**, Jean Marie Miller, 6661 Upham Dr, Arvada, 80003-3943

## CONNECTICUT

**Margaret Fargeot**, 235 Alps Rd, Branford, 06405-4745

**Verilux, Inc.**, PO Box 2937, Stamford, 06906-0937

## FLORIDA

**Andrew's Violets 'n' Things**, Linda Andrews, 2801 Frontier Dr, Kissimmee, 34744-9301

**Violets From the Starrs**, George & Estelle Starr, 2602 Graupera St, Pensacola, 32507-1637

## GEORGIA

**P J's Violets**, Joan Cumpton, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins, 31088-4170

**Travis' Violets**, Travis Davis, PO Box 42, Ochlocknee, 31773-0042

**Violets Galore of Georgia**, Jim & Jean Wright, 8669 Lake Dr, Snellville, 30039-6533

## ILLINOIS

**Prairie Violets**, Linda Stickney, PO Box 313, Maroa, 61756-0313

## INDIANA

**Out Of Africa**, Gary S Mikita, 2842 Brown St, Portage, 46368-3918

## IOWA

**Fuzzy Plants, Inc.**, David Thompson, 461 Progress Ave, Waterloo, 50701-5615

**Violets Garden and Coffee Shoppe**, 222 1st St E, Independence, 50644-2813

## KANSAS

**McKinney's Glassehouse**, James B. McKinney, 5720 Sullivan Rd, At Neff Lodge and Gardens, Wichita,

## LOUISIANA

**Bayou Violets**, Genelle Armstrong, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie, 70005-1152

## MARYLAND

**The Behnke Nurseries**, 11300 Baltimore Ave, PO Box 290, Beltsville, 20705-1923

**Violet Rainbow**, Alice Bair, 1515 Bachmans Valley Rd, Westminster, 21158-3201

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Cape Cod Violetry**, John Cook, 28 Minot St, Falmouth, 02540-2840

## MICHIGAN

**Elizabeth L. Buck**, PO Box 186, Clifford, 48727-0186  
**African Violets By Don Geiss**, Don Geiss, 4957 W Poverty Perch Rd, Frederic, 49733-9503  
**Bay Valley Violets**, Jamie Christensen, 5305 Nakoma Dr, Midland, 48640-2833  
**Indoor Gardening**, Tina Dickhart, PO Box 527, Dexter, 48130-0527

## MINNESOTA

**Midland Violets**, Donald Ness, 3667 Midland Ave, White Bear Lake, 55110-7307  
**Source Tech Bio Inc**, 7449 Cahill Rd # 150, Edina, 55439-2748

## MISSOURI

**Buttram's African Violets**, J David Buttram, PO Box 193, Independence, 64051-0193  
**Dave's Violets**, David Harris, 1372 S Kentwood Ave, Springfield, 65804-0220  
**Dunlap Enterprises**, Gary N Dunlap, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708  
**Schultz Company**, 13260 Corporate Exchange Dr, Bridgeton, 63044-3720

## MONTANA

**Gainan's Garden Center**, Mick Gainan, 810 Bench Blvd, Billings, 59105-3350

## NEBRASKA

**Kent's Flowers**, Joyce & Kent Stork, 2501 E 23rd Ave S, Fremont, 68025-2478  
**The Violet Showroom**, Shannon Ahlman, 819 Diers Ave Ste 8, Grand Island, 68803-4957

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Terri Seymour**, 108 Deer Hill Rd, Brentwood, 03833-6511  
**Chestnut Country Violets**, Lisa Dimambro, 182 Old Chester Tpke, Chester, 03036-4016

## NEW YORK

**Richard M Wasmund**, 1609 Michigan Ave, Niagara Falls, 14305-2907  
**Edward Janosick**, RR 1 Box 122, West Settlement, Roxbury, 12474-9746  
**Georgette Yandolino**, 451 W End Ave, New York, 10024-5329  
**Barbara Whiting Ellison**, 258 Shanty Creek Rd, Central Square, 13036-3416  
**Champions African Violets**, Ethel W. Champion, 8848 Van Hoesen Rd, Clay, 13041-9604  
**Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses Inc**, Paul Sorano, PO Box 249, Dolgeville, 13329-0249  
**Mo's Garden**, Barbara Gogoll, 804 Burritt Rd, Hilton, 14468-9725  
**Rob's Mini-O-Lets**, Ralph Robinson, PO Box 9, Naples, 14512-0009  
**Scott's Miracle-Gro Products Inc**, 800 Port Washington Blvd, Port Washington, 11050-3720  
**Smith's Country Cottage AV's**, G T Smith, 109 Ogden Parma Townline Rd, Spencerport, 14559-1623  
**Violet Venture**, Fayanne B Wagman, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford, 14534-3104  
**Violets By Appointment**, Bill Paauwe, 45 3rd St, West Sayville, 11796-1109  
**Violets Fun Photo**, Olive Ma Robinson, PO Box 9, Naples, 14512-0009

## NORTH CAROLINA

**African Violets By Fredericks, Inc.**, Alyce Droege, PO Box 1416, Franklin, 28744-1416  
**Bluebird Greenhouse**, Elizabeth Glembocki, 4821 Jessie Dr, Apex, 27502-8858  
**Carousel of Violets**, Bonnie N Cheek, 1403 S Stratford Rd # C, Winston Salem, 27103-2920

## OHIO

**B & E Ceramics**, Pam Staun, 6961 Shawnee Run Rd, Cincinnati, 45243-2519  
**Pat's Patch**, Pat Hancock, PO Box 8085, West Chester, 45069-8085

## OKLAHOMA

**A New Leaf Inc**, Kim Falcon, 2306 S 1st Pl, Broken Arrow, 74012-7137  
**McCawley's African Violets**, Edna R. McCawley, 1721 S Fulton Ave, Tulsa, 74112-6929

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Susan Shields Reis**, 1181 William St, State College, 16801-6310  
**Melody Hartman**, 715 Kames Hill Rd, Columbia, 17512-8422  
**Tinari Greenhouses**, Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd # 190, Huntingdon Valley, 19006-6007  
**Violet Gallery**, Mahlen Petry, 1590 Cranberry Rd, York Springs, 17372-8851  
**Violets and More**, Naomi Martin, 3217 State Line Rd, Waynesboro, 17268-9551

## TENNESSEE

**H & H Enterprises**, Mary V Herrington, 222 Flynn Rd, Walland, 37886-2701  
**Holtkamp Greenhouses**, Reinhold Holtkamp, PO Box 78565, Nashville, 37207-8565  
**The Garden Angel**, Sandra & Larry Lister, 261 Ironwood Dr, Kodak, 37764-2160

## TEXAS

**Sandy Sanders**, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio, 78221-1446  
**Blanche Victoria Mercaldi**, PO Box 823172, Dallas, 75382-3172  
**Acree Creations**, Yvonne Acree, 3235 Lockmoor Ln, Dallas, 75220-1631  
**African Violet Shop**, Lenora Munk, 2015 Bauer Dr, Houston, 77080-5524  
**Hill Country African Violets**, Ken Froboese, 32005 IH 10 W, Boerne, 78006-9240  
**Jo's Violets**, Jo Anne Schrimsher, 2205 College Dr, Victoria, 77901-4474  
**K-M Media**, Glenn & Ivanora Kertz, 3484 Pheasant St, Orange, 77630-2044  
**Shirley's House of Violets**, Shirley L. Sanders, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio, 78221-1446  
**Swifts'**, June Swift, PO Box 181521, Dallas, 75218-8521  
**Teas Nursery**, Paul Downs, 4400 Bellaire Blvd, Bellaire, 77401-4306  
**Volkman Bros Greenhouses**, Walter Volkman, 3714 Old Settlers Rd, Flower Mound, 75022-2827

## VIRGINIA

**Arts and Crafts By Eloisa**, Eloisa D. Wilson, PO Box 220114, Chantilly, 20153-0114

WASHINGTON

**Alannah's African Violets**, Alannah Regan, PO Box 2,  
99121-0002

**Henry's Plant Farm**, 4522 132nd St SE, Snohomish,  
98296-8916

**Shrink-n-Violets**, Phyllis R. Cazares, 3207 W Sylvester St,  
Pasco, 99301-4658

WISCONSIN

**Belisle's Violet House**, Marcia Belisle, 4041 N Metnik Rd,  
Ojibwa, 54862-4132





*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Special Treat*

*Exhibited by: Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses*

# Shows and Judges



**Bill Foster**  
*Shows and Judges Committee*  
3610 Gray Drive  
Mesquite, TX 75150  
*email:bpfooster@airmail.net*

“Chicago” was a great convention and provided us with the largest show in recent years. The judges’ breakfast, as usual, brought forth many interesting discussions. First, let’s talk about a few changes to the Handbook. Those of you attending the convention and those of you who read the schedule probably noticed some changes. A new class, “Commercial Showcase” was added. This was done on a trial basis in an attempt to create more interest in commercial participation. It did! As a result of this, there will be changes in the commercial segment of the Handbook in the near future.

PLEASE NOTE: THESE CHANGES WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SOON AS AVAILABLE AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE IN THE SHOWS & JUDGES COLUMN.

I know that the Handbook states that corrections to the Handbook will be in the Shows & Judges Column, but this is an exception that needs to be published as soon as possible, so please be on the lookout for the changes.

Here is a change you may make now:

**Page 68:** At the end of the paragraph under interpretive plant arrangements, add: Exception: Interpretive plant arrangements using one or more non-blooming African violet plants may be included as a class in the schedule. We have had requests for this class for several years. For many years we have allowed a class in the flower arrangements using only African violet foliage, so the discussion was whether to eliminate the flower arrangement or add the plant arrangement. The final decision was to add the non-blooming plant arrangement.

**Page 78:** Please change the first sentence on 4 to read: Uniformly covered tables shall be furnished. The exhibitor may provide their own covering, but selection is limited to solid colors.

Here are some question from the judges’ breakfast:

*Q. What can we do with judges who take an hour and a half to judge two or three collections?*

**A.** This question is often asked. About the only difference in point scoring and sight scoring is recording the scores on

the score sheet. The collections should not be judged any more harshly than the plants scored in the other classes. The process would probably go faster if the panel would look over all the collections and mentally sight score them. This would help determine the best collections and make the recording of the scores much less time consuming.

*Q. The Handbook states the requirement of the use of one or more blooming African violet plants in container gardens. Does this mean that you could not use a non-blooming, variegated African violet plant along with blooming plants?*

**A.** NO! As long as you meet the requirement of using one or more blooming African violets, you may use non-blooming African violets in your gardens.

*Q. May a person buy African violet plants and show them immediately, in order to earn blue ribbons so they can renew their judges’ certificate?*

**A.** NO! Item 11, on page 43 under “AVSA Rules To Be Included In Schedules”, states that all plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months. Most everything we do in AVSA is done on the HONOR SYSTEM. If a member chooses to be dishonest, that is not a problem of AVSA, but a problem of the member.

*Q. Under design, how many points should be deducted for the line material touching the sides of the niche?*

**A.** Page 69 in the Handbook states that points should be deducted under (under space) if material touches or extends beyond the dimensions given in the schedule. The 40 points for design is made up from the elements and principles. The number of points allotted to space would be 4 to 5 points, so the judges would need to determine the severity of the “touching” and deduct part or all of the points.

*Q. When entering species in a judged show, what are the guidelines for grooming? Are they groomed as hybrids or not groomed at all?*

**A.** Grooming of species is worth 30 points. Grooming would include cleaning the plant, removing spent blossoms, blossoms stems, and yellow or dying leaves. This can be done without altering the growth habit of the plant.

**Q.** *A species, S. rupicola, that chose to grow as a single crown plant, was entered in a show and was awarded a white ribbon. The plant was in good condition. The description states that this species is a trailer. Should it have been reduced to a white ribbon just because it chose to grow as a single crown plant?*

**A.** When judging regular classes, a trailer with only one crown could earn no better than a white ribbon. However, judging species is not the same. If the classification was correct and the plant was determined to truly be *S. rupicola*, and was a good specimen, it should not have been reduced to a white ribbon. Under "Consideration for Judging Species", page 59 of the Handbook, it states that judges should consider species native or wild plants. The descriptions in the Handbook are the basis for patterns of growth. However, we should exhibit them as they are, without artificially altering them to meet certain criteria. Judges should judge them as presented without deducting points for occasional deviations. Had the judges read this instruction in the Handbook perhaps the entry would have fared better.

**Q.** *What about natural hybrids? Are these species? Also, is a cross between two species considered a species or a natural hybrid?*

**A.** Refer to page 62 in the Handbook. You will find a list of plants that are considered "natural hybrids". Some on that list are sports. These plants have not yet been determined to be true species. They may be shown and judged as species but cannot be entered in the AVSA collection classes. As for the cross between two species, the plant would be a hybrid, would be entered in the regular classes, and would not be judged as a species.

**Q.** *Would it ever be permissible to use succulents in container gardens? Sometimes the titles in schedules indicate a desert theme, or perhaps an outerspace theme involving other planets. Should the judges ever make exceptions for the use of succulents when they seem to fit the theme?*

**A.** No, succulents should never be used in container gardens and no, judges should never make exceptions even if succulents fit the theme. We should use plants that are compatible with African violets. The best advice is to avoid desert themes for container gardens. African violets are not even appropriate in a desert theme! Leave those themes for the arrangements. Cacti and other succulents are permissible in arrangement classes.



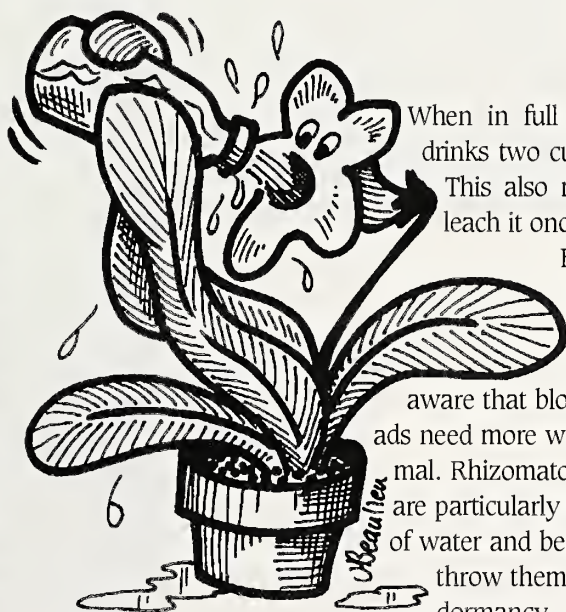
## Guzzlin' Gesneriads

by Dale Martens

I want to warn you that gesneriads in bloom are heavy drinkers. This can be important when you are away attending conventions or on summer vacation.

I grow all with the wicking method on two cup reservoirs. When I'm going to the convention shows, I have to remove open flowers on everything that's blooming enthusiastically because blooming gesneriads are extra thirsty, particularly achimenes and smithianthas. They can easily drink two cups in a short amount of time. I will cut just the flowers that are in full bloom at the moment and which will be spent by the time I return.

As an example, I'm growing an unnamed fragrant *Streptocarpus* hybrid created by Jeff Smith that currently has seven blossom stems. One stem has ten open blossoms and two colored buds and another has ten open blossoms. It's such a spectacular bloomer that I'll be showing a slide of it during the GHA meeting at the AGGS convention in Kansas City. When you walk into my plant room you can smell the sweet fragrance.



When in full bloom, it easily drinks two cups in one week. This also means I have to leach it once a month.

Even if you aren't setting up plants for vacations, be aware that blooming gesneriads need more water than normal. Rhizomatous gesneriads are particularly sensitive to lack of water and being dry might throw them into an early dormancy.

*From African Violet & Gesneriad News*

# Showcase

## *Strawberry Sundae*

*Exhibited by: Deborah Sanders*

*Hybridized by: G. Smith*

*Smith's Country Cottage*

*2001 Introduction*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Rob's Sticky Wicket*

*Best Trailer*

*2001 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Bob McCabe*

*Hybridized by: R. Robinson*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *xColtrichantha 'Midget'*

*3rd Best Other Gesneriad*

*2001 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Fred Packer*



**Dale Martens**  
2728 Masters Drive  
League City, Texas 77573  
email [martens@wt.net](mailto:martens@wt.net)

## Exciting Convention Winners!

Several AVSA members attended and exhibited in both the AVSA and AGGS conventions which were about a month apart. These were exciting competitions, and I'd like to chat about some of the winning entries, with an emphasis on the African violets, including some brand new hybrids! At the AVSA convention, Linda Golubski entered a huge *Nautocalyx porphyrostachys* which is a good ornamental foliage entry, and it also has some interesting crimson colored flowers with black edges. This was a particularly well grown entry. Linda won Best Collection at the AGGS convention with a basket of species African violets consisting of: *Saintpaulia velutina* light, *S. magungensis*, *S. velutina*, *S. pendula kizarae*, *S. diplotricha* 'Punter 8', and *S. species* #21 trailer.

Bill Price of Canada entered two very large and incredible *Petrocosmeas* at the AVSA and AGGS conventions. These were *Petrocosmea forrestii* which won 2nd Best Gesneriad at AVSA and *P. minor* which won Best Foliage at AGGS. *Petrocosmea minor* was the one that has shiny foliage and was perfectly round, and *P. forrestii* was the hairy one that had an unusual scalloped and pleasing shape.

Let's chat a bit about Gesneriads Grown for Ornamental Foliage. When one looks at any gesneriad entered in this class, it's important to really look for ornamental foliage! Please don't dismiss a plant easily because at first glance it appears to be a plant out of bloom. Tell yourself the exhibitor thinks they have a good reason for entering it in this class, then be a detective and find those reasons. All the following count towards ornamental foliage: Leaves that have shine, red-backed foliage, hairiness, variegation, and texture. Now look at the shape of the plant because the exhibitor may have tried for a special shape or symmetry. Finally, look for colorful calyces and/or fruit (berries or special seed pods) because those count toward ornamental foliage.

At the AVSA convention, Bob Clark won Best in Class with the species *Streptocarpus fenestra dei*. It even had two

leaves with abscission lines. Happily, the judges thought they were perfectly fine! It was a wonderful entry!! In AGGS conventions, there's a class for textiles. Bob won for his *Saintpaulia ionantha* cross-stitch. I've done cross stitch, so I stood there admiring this one for some time.

Talking about streptocarpus, David Thompson and Gary Mikita entered some extremely floriferous streptocarpus plants at the AVSA convention. At AGGS convention, there were so many streptocarpus plants entered that the class was divided into: "whites, pinks, purples, reds, variegated, and small." David won four of the streptocarpus classes!

The African violets that won their classes at the AGGS convention were: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #0 entered by Paul Kroll, *Saintpaulia* 'Sky Diver' entered by Gary Dunlap (Pat's Pets), *Optimara* 'Manitoba' and 'Little Pro' entered by Carolyn Colin-Lane. 'Yesterday's Garland', which is a semi-miniature trailer, was entered by our own Dr. Jeff Smith. It is a brand new hybrid and has a blue double flower with raspberry edges on dark foliage that one can easily see has *Saintpaulia velutina* as a parent! I asked Dr. Smith to elaborate on this wonderful new hybrid he created, and he wrote, "It is an F1 hybrid of the Mather No. 21 trailer (likely an *S. grotei* clone) with 'Ness' Angel Glitter' (miniature pink with raspberry edges). It got the trailing habit from the species and the blue flower color from the species, but the double flowers with raspberry edges are from the Ness' plant. The plant size was reduced by the miniature, too, giving it a semi-miniature trailer (appearance)."

Dr. Smith also entered a "kinship" collection in the show. In AGGS shows, they have a collection class in which one can show at least one parent and then two to four offspring from this cross. This class is a wonderful way to show genetic dominance. Dr. Smith's kinship group was showing the use of *Saintpaulia velutina* in his hybridizing program. He states, "The goal was to get a trailer with the foliage of *S. velutina*. The cross was originally with the trailing species *S.*

*magungensis*. I got a trailer with foliage somewhat similar to *S. velutina* in the F1 (which was in the collection). However, the blooms are small single droppers so an outcross to a cultivated plant was done to improve the blooms."

The best plant (in my opinion) to date is 'Yesterday's Valentine' (which was the plant on the left side in the collection). *Saintpaulia* 'Yesterday's Valentine' is a trailer with double, dark purple-blue flowers. The foliage is similar to *S. velutina*, but not quite as hairy.

Another plant out of the group is 'Yesterday's Child' which I did not show. It got the foliage type of the *S. magungensis* parent (light green, but hairy) and has medium blue, double blooms.

Now for the Best Gesneriad winner at AVSA: Linda Neumann won with a HUGE *Chirita linearifolia*. It's the largest I've ever seen. I asked Linda to tell us about it and describe it for those who weren't lucky enough to see it in person. She writes, "*Chirita linearifolia* has been in my possession for at least seven years. It has been growing in a seven inch urn type pot in a 1-1-1 soil mixture. I alternate fish emulsion, 12-36-14, and 20-20-20 fertilizers. The plant grows among my variegated African violets on the lowest of my plant shelves, which is about six inches above the floor.

"The central stem of this plant is eight inches from soil line to crown. There are five branches spaced almost equal distance from each other and arise from the base of the central stem. Each of the branches measures between eight and nine inches in length. They come out from the stem for about three inches and dip slightly downward and then upward."

A new *Chirita* not seen before was exhibited at AGGS and was a variegated, yes, a variegated *Chirita linearifolia* x *C. latifolia* named, 'Cynthia' entered by Vincent Woo of

Canada. The outer sides of the leaves were an off-white color. All who saw it wanted it!

The Best in Show for AGGS was a new *Chirita* hybrid named 'Kitaguni' (referring to the northern land, or Canada) hybridized by Toshijiro Okuto of Japan, grown from seed and entered by Carolyn Colin-Lane of Canada. This was an outstanding, perfect *Chirita* specimen with yellow flowers and beautiful leaves! You must see those leaves to understand why I am speechless to describe their beauty.

Now for my own bragging! At the AVSA and AGGS conventions, I entered the begonia-looking new *Chirita speciosa* (green leaf). It won a blue ribbon at AVSA, and won its class at the AGGS convention. It has very, very thin leaves with white splashes and maroon dots! It's from China and I understand it has fragrant flowers that smell somewhat like a rose. I also won the New Hybrid class at the AGGS convention for my entry of Dr. Jeff Smith's new, fragrant *Streptocarpus*. He gave me this hybrid when I visited the Ohio AVS convention last year. Dr. Smith has recently named this very floriferous plant, *Streptocarpus* 'Heaven Scent.' I hybridized a new gesneriad which now has the name, xAchimenaantha 'Golden Jubilee', and it won a contest to represent AGGS' 50th anniversary celebration this year. It's a selfing of xAchimenaantha 'Inferno.' My new hybrid has peachy-pink *Achimenes*-looking flowers, and some flowers have extra petals extending from their centers.

For those who have never attended a convention, please consider going to one in 2002! Conventions are a way to see and purchase new plant material, but most importantly, it's a way to be with a group of people who love to chat about their African violets and gesneriads! Save those pennies and join me next year!

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## Wicking Containers

by Marie Montague

For years I lived with wicking containers that were really quite ugly. My father, John Montague, used every Cool Whip, deli, and margarine container that he could get his hands on. He cut a hole in the top, and set his plants on top. He even used coffee cans covered with contact paper. This system works well with a few plants. However, the tops broke, the cans rusted, and they were all different sizes.

When I inherited Dad's collection, well over 100 plants, I set out to find a better way. I had spent over thirty years dealing with Cool Whip containers, when I helped him water and I grew to hate them! When Mom served a dessert with Cool Whip, I knew what would happen next!

I actually carried a 4" pot with me for months until I found the perfect, inexpensive food container in white plastic that would hold the 4" pot with space for water below. Trips to the discount store yielded about fifty of these containers. They were inexpensive because the covers were missing.

This was great, but what about the smaller 2 1/2" or 3" pots? My search began again. I had many of the plastic water and soda bottles to be recycled. They looked about the right

size, but how could I cut them? It's easy. Just touch a match to the side where you want to cut and you'll have a hole large enough to insert a pair of scissors. Determine how deep you want the container to be before you start. Another problem solved. Obviously, use care with matches.

But what about the plastic bottles that are too large? The 2 liter bottles seemed great and they even came in green, for 4" pots. I've discovered that, after cutting the bottle to the proper size, if you lightly run a match over the top, the top will curl in just enough to hold a 4" pot above the water.

Voila! Neat stands, containers all the proper size, not bad looking, and an endless supply.

There's also a special bonus. When giving a plant to a friend, don't hesitate to leave the wick and include a container. Most people will love the idea of wick watering and can place the container in a basket, brass bucket or pretty ceramic pot. Look around, there are many options out there. Desperation is the Mother of Invention.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS



# African Violet Note Cards from

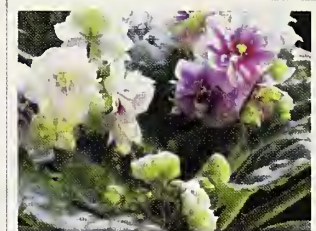
# UAreSoBeautiful.com<sup>®</sup>



AV-01



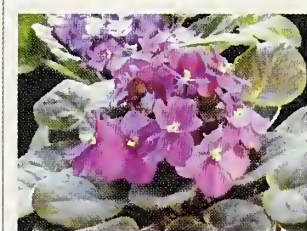
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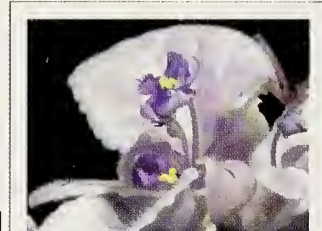
AV-03



AV-04



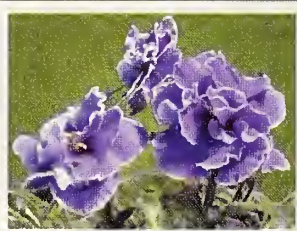
AV-05



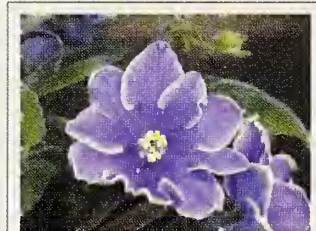
AV-06



AV-07



AV-08



AV-09



AV-10

We grow and photograph our own African Violets! Now we can share our images with you on note cards. Each card is 4.25" x 5.5". A pack of 10 cards sells for \$9.00 plus S&H. Cards are packaged in a clear vinyl box and they make a beautiful gift. Choose one style or an assortment. We invite you to visit us on the web at [UAreSoBeautiful.com](http://UAreSoBeautiful.com) to view our complete catalog of images and products. Or call toll free to order or receive further information. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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# Coming Events



## September 8 - NORTH CAROLINA

Triangle AVS Fall Sale  
Northgate Mall  
Durham, NC  
Info: Elizabeth Whitesides  
(919) 847 - 9472

## September 14 & 15 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS, First of Dallas AVS, & First  
Nighter AVS Combined Sale  
Plano Market Square Mall  
(Garden Ridge)  
Ave K at Spring Creek Pkwy  
Plano, TX  
Sept 14 - 10am - 9pm  
Sept 15 - 10am - 6pm  
Info: (972) 278 - 0389

## September 15 & 16 - ARIZONA

Tucson AVS Show/Sale  
Center Court, ElCon Mall  
3601 East Broadway  
Tucson, AZ  
Mall Hours  
Info: Sue Sacco (520) 721 - 0813

## September 15 & 16 - CALIFORNIA

Delta Gesneriad and AVS  
Judged Show/Sale  
Sacramento Garden & Arts Center  
3300 McKinley Blvd  
Sacramento, CA  
Sept 15 - 2pm - 5pm  
Sept 16 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Oscar Faoro (916) 421 - 8833

## September 22 & 23 - PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh Violet and Gesneriad Society  
Exhibit/Sale  
Northland Public Library  
300 Cumberland Rd., North Hills  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Sept 22 - 10am - 4pm  
Sept 23 - 1pm - 4pm  
Info: Georgene Albrecht  
(724) 693 - 9666  
Email: georgena@bellatlantic.com

## September 21 & 22 - CANADA

Stampede City AVS  
Judging School/Design Workshop  
Taught by Paul Kroll  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
Sept 21 - 7:30pm - 10pm  
Sept 22 - 9am - 4pm  
Info: Winston J. Goretsky  
(403) 241 - 8300  
Web Site:  
<http://www.cadvision.com/wjg/main.html>  
Email: SCAVS@cadvision.com

## September 21 - IOWA

Cedar Valley AVC 10th Annual  
Show/Sale  
Crossroads Mall  
Waterloo, IA  
Info: Barbara Pershing  
(319) 987 - 2235  
Email: barbara.pershing@uni.edu

## September 22 & 23 - TEXAS

Nasa Area AVS & Office Violets  
and Lunch  
Judged Show/Sale  
Clear Lake Park Building  
5001 NASA Rd. One  
Houston, TX  
Sept 22 - 1pm - 6pm  
Sept 23 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Joyce Stenger (281) 488 - 0267  
Email: jasstenger@aol.com

## September 28 - MINNESOTA

AVS of Minnesota Display/Sale  
Har Mar Mall  
Snelling Ave and Co. Rd. B  
Roseville, MN  
Info: Ruth Bann (763) 571 - 6703  
Email: rebels@mninter.net

## September 29 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale  
Coddington Mall  
Guernville Rd @ Hwy 101  
Santa Rosa, CA  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Byron Borck (707) 527 - 8362  
Email: borck@cablone.net

## September 29 - NEBRASKA

Omaha AVS Annual Fall Exhibition/Sale  
Westroads Shopping Mall  
102nd and West Dodge Rd.  
Omaha, NE  
Hours: 10am - 5pm  
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 - 1478

## October 5 - 7 - OHIO

Ohio State AVS Annual Convention  
Kingwood Center  
900 Park Avenue West  
Mansfield, OH  
Info: Mary Martin (614) 529 - 0589  
Email: mmartin@nhraw.org

## October 6 & 7 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Display/Sale  
Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
1800 Dixboro Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Oct 6 - 10am - 4:30pm  
Oct 7 - 11am - 2pm  
Info: Loreen Callentine  
(517) 345 - 9053

## October 6 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVC Plant Sale  
Houston Arboretum  
4501 Woodway Dr.  
Memorial Park  
Houston, TX  
Email for info: Elaine Click  
eclick@batesww.com

## October 6 - WASHINGTON

Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma Plant Sale  
Poole's Nursery and Garden Center  
6th and Union  
Tacoma, WA  
Hours: 10am - 3pm

## October 11 & 12 - CALIFORNIA

AV Council of Southern CA  
Judged Show/Sale  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
997 East Walnut  
Pasadena, CA  
Both Days: 10am - 5pm  
Info: Mary Blancher (818) 363 - 6222

## October 12 - 14 - MINNESOTA

Lake Area Violet Growers Display/Sale  
Northtown Mall  
Highway 10 & University Ave. NE  
Blaine, MN  
Oct 12 - 10am - 9pm  
Oct 13 - 10am - 6pm  
Oct 14 - 11am - 6pm

## October 20 - CALIFORNIA

CCA VS Sale  
Manchester Mall  
1901 E Shields  
Fresno, CA  
Hours: 10am - 3pm  
Info: Stan Barnes (559) 294 - 8650

## October 20 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS Plant Sale  
Padre Staples Mall  
5488 S. Padre Island Drive  
Corpus Christi, TX  
Hours: 10am - 5pm  
Info: Marjorie Bullard (361) 992 - 3009  
Email: mrbinc@flash.net

## October 20 - OREGON

Portland AV Association Fall Sale  
Tabor Heights Methodist Church  
6161 SE Stark  
Portland, OR  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771 - 5762

## October 20 & 21 - ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society  
Display/Sale  
Friendship Park Conservatory  
Mt. Prospect, IL  
Hours: Noon - 3pm  
Info: Susan Bradford (847) 740 - 7801

## October 21 - MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State AVS Plant Sale  
Dinner/Business Meeting  
Waltham Field Station  
Waltham MA  
Plant Sale: 11am  
Dinner: 1pm  
Info: Carol Hess (508) 872 - 7574  
Email: violetspp@aol.com

## October 27 & 28 - MISSOURI

Missouri AV Council Show/Sale  
Holiday Inn  
Joplin, MO  
Oct 27 - Noon - 4pm  
Oct 28 - 10am - 2pm  
Info: Mary Hill (918) 437 - 3343  
Ramona Donnell (417) 649 - 7429

## October 27 & 28 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Philadelphia Show/Sale  
Water Tower Recreation Center of  
Chestnut Hill  
Hartwell & Ardleigh Streets  
Philadelphia, PA  
Info: Peggy DePhillippo  
(610) 489 - 4744  
Betsy Gottshall (610) 489 - 6124

## October 27 & 28 - CONNECTICUT

Nutmeg State AVS Show/Sale  
Days Inn, Exit 55, I-95  
Branford, CT  
Oct 27 - 1pm - 5pm  
Oct 28 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: (203) 281 - 1715

## October 27 & 28 - FLORIDA

AVS of SW Florida Display/Sale  
Ft. Myers - Lee County  
Garden Council Bldg  
2646 Cleveland Ave  
Ft. Myers, FL  
Both Days: 9am - 5pm  
Info: Lillian Scott (941) 542 - 9193

## October 27 & 28 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council Show/Sale  
Bachman's  
6010 Lyndale Ave. South  
Minneapolis, MN  
Store Hours  
Info: Sharon Johnson (651) 426 - 5760  
Gail Podany (952) 933 - 9067

## October 27 & 28 - CALIFORNIA

Thousand Oaks AVS Show/Sale  
Thousand Oaks Library  
1401 Janss Rd.  
Thousand Oaks, CA  
Oct 27 - 11:30am - 5pm  
Oct 28 - 1pm - 4pm  
Info: Judy Anderson (805) 581 - 0014

## November 3 & 4 - NEW JERSEY

Tristate AV Council Show/Sale  
Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
53 East Hanover Ave.  
Morristown, NJ  
Nov 3 - 1:30pm - 5pm  
Nov 4 - 11am - 4pm  
Info: Dale Jasaitis (609) 298 - 7333

## November 8 - 11 - NORTH CAROLINA

Mid-Atlantic AVS 2001  
Convention & Show  
Sheraton 4 Points Hotel  
Raleigh, NC  
Info: Libbie Glembocki  
Email Libbie@attglobal.net

## November 8 - 10 - TEXAS

Lone Star AVC 2001 Convention & Show  
Double Tree Club Hotel  
1111 N.E. Loop 410  
San Antonio, TX  
Info: Bill Johnson (210) 342 - 6412  
Irene Harney (210) 684 - 3598





# Registration Report



Iris Keating

149 Loretto Court • Claremont, CA 91711

## Fay Wagman – Pittsford, NY

- \***Blueberry Candy** (9026) 4/7/01 (F. Wagman) Semidouble-double white star/blue eye. **Variiegated** medium green and white, ovate. **Miniature**
- \***Sister Sylvia** (9027) 4/7/01 (F. Wagman) Single chimera red stickite pansy/white stripe. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**

\*\*\*\*

## Geoffrey Smith – Spencerport, NY

- \***Rose Bouquet** (9028) 4/12/01 (G. Smith) Double pink frilled star/darker eye. **Mosaic variegated** medium green and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Strawberry Sundae** (9029) 4/12/01 (G. Smith) Semidouble hot pink frilled pansy/darker eye. **Mosaic variegated** light to dark green and cream, plain, scalloped. **Standard**

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## Daphne Snell – Pukekohe, New Zealand

- \***Kiwi Aristocrat** (9030) 5/31/01 (D. Snell) Semidouble dark blue frilled pansy/red-tinged overlay on edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- \***Kiwi Candy Floss** (9031) 5/31/01 (D. Snell) Semidouble chimera white frilled pansy/medium pink stripe. Dark green, plain/red back. **Standard**
- \***Kiwi Christmas Cheer** (9032) 5/31/01 (D. Snell) Semidouble chimera white pansy/vivid red-wine stripe. Dark green, plain/red back. **Standard**
- \***Kiwi Mischief** (9033) 5/31/01 (D. Snell) Semidouble chimera bright pink pansy/lavender stripe, purple fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- \***Kiwi Splendour** (9034) 5/31/01 (D. Snell) Single-semidouble chimera dark blue frilled pansy/white stripe. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- \***Kiwi Velvet Glow** (9035) 5/31/01 (D. Snell) Double dark red frilled pansy/darker eye, edge. Dark green, plain. **Large**

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## Ralph Robinson – Naples, NY

- \***Rob's Bed Bug** (9036) 5/31/01 (R. Robinson) Double dark red pansy. **Crown variegated** dark green, pink and beige/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Rob's Inner Orbit** (9037) 5/31/01 (R. Robinson) Semidouble pink pansy/white edge. **Variiegated** dark green and white, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- \***Rob's Loose Noodle** (9038) 5/31/01 (R. Robinson) Double white star/blue edge. Medium green, pointed. **Miniature**
- \***Rob's Love Bite** (9039) 5/31/01 (R. Robinson) Semidouble

black-red pansy. **Crown variegated** dark green, cream and beige/red back. **Miniature**

- \***Rob's Slap Happy** (9040) 5/31/01 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark coral pansy. **Crown variegated** dark green, white, cream and pink, quilted. **Semiminiature**

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## Olive Ma Robinson – Naples, NY

- \***Ma's Corsage** (9041) 5/31/01 (O. Robinson) Double pink pansy/light green frilled edge. **Variiegated** medium green and white, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Standard**
- \***Ma's Debutante** (9042) 5/31/01 (O. Robinson) Semidouble pink pansy. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- \***Ma's Midland Blue** (9043) 5/31/01 (O. Robinson) Semidouble medium blue star. **Crown variegated** green, white and yellow, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Ma's Midland Fantasy** (9044) 5/31/01 (O. Robinson) Semidouble pink star/blue fantasy. **Crown variegated** green, white and yellow, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Ma's Soiree** (9045) 5/31/01 (O. Robinson) Semidouble fuchsia-red ruffled pansy. **Variiegated** medium green and white, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

## NAME RESERVATIONS

### Geoffrey Smith – Spencerport, NY

- \* Alpine Meadow \* Babylonian Garden \* Brian's Quest \* Burgundy Prince \* Cosmic Starburst \* Firelight Glow \* Highland Dream \* Highland Glory \* Highland Heather \* Highland Laddie \* Lacy Blue Satin \* Lady Guinivere \* Miss Prim \* Painted Wheel \* Pink Halo \* Ragged Lil Urchin \* Raspberries 'n' Cream \* Redemption \* Shades of Blush \* Strawberry Muffin \* Sweet Serenity \* Tipped Off \* Touch of Irish \* White Out

\*\*\*\*

### Ruby Cox – Kansas City, MO

- \* Mama's Jelly Roll \* Mama's Red Dust \* Mama's True Love \* Mama's Truly Blessed \* Mama's Vanilla Custard

\*\*\*\*

### Daphne Snell – Pukekohe, New Zealand

- \* Kiwi Brandy Snap \* Kiwi Red Echo \* Kiwi Southern Cross

## REGISTRATION CHANGE

At the hybridizer's request, the following description change has been made:

- Kev's Freckle Face** (8849) **Single**-semidouble pink ruffled pansy/fuchsia overlay, wide edge.

# Gesneriad Costume Party

by Elizabeth Whitesides • Raleigh, North Carolina

Are you looking for something fun and different to do at your affiliate meeting? Our affiliate, Triangle African Violet Society, did something last fall that was a highlight in our club's history. We are a small group, but our meetings are lively. My buddy, Felicia Wdowiak, and I (a.k.a. the Cheerleader and the Prissy Princess – our club nicknames!) especially like to stir things up. Last summer, we reorganized our club meeting dates to work around our trip to Philadelphia for the Mid Atlantic AVS convention, and we decided to have our November meeting on Halloween. As a joke, I suggested that since it was Halloween, we should all come disguised as our favorite Gesneriad. Naturally, the Cheerleader thought that was a stupendous idea, much to the mock horror of everyone else. All summer, we tormented our other club members by reminding them to be working on their costumes. As Halloween approached, however, everyone decided this would be really fun. We organized an all-out Halloween bash for our club meeting, complete with fabulous costumes and spooky food. We meet in a community senior center and we created quite a stir that day. Everyone came by



L-R: Sylvia Blanchard, Elizabeth Whitesides, Felicia Wdowiak and Linda Abplanalp

to check out our costumes.

As you can see from the photo, a lot of creativity went into those costumes. Felicia came as Happy Cricket. Sylvia Blanchard came as one of her beloved pink AVs. I came as a Streptocarpus. Our President, Libbie Glembocki, who is not in the photo, came as one of her favorite violets, Quilting Bee. Linda Abplanalp, however, took the prize for most over-the-top costume. She came as Cajun Popcorn. A b&w photo does not do justice to her get-up, which was an absolute riot of colors and Mardi Gras paraphernalia! Those things that look like bags of perlite strapped to her are actually bags of popcorn. Our buffet included a

chocolate cake decorated with cookies and candies to look like a graveyard and homemade soft pretzels shaped like finger bones.

We had an absolute blast – every time we looked at each other we stared laughing! I would highly encourage your club to have your own Gesneriad Costume Party. The costumes were inexpensive and fun to make, and it will definitely be one of the most memorable and fun meetings you'll ever have!

## THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 2, 2001 • Chicago, Illinois

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America was called to order by Linda Owens, Third Vice President, at 2:35 PM in the Lake Superior Room of the Sheraton Arlington Park Hotel, Arlington Heights, Illinois. The Invocation was given by Hortense Pittman followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Linda Owens presented the President, Bill Foster.

Sue Ramser, Secretary, reported a quorum was present. Mrs. Ramser also read the Standing Rules and moved adoption. The motion was seconded and the Standing Rules were **adopted**.

President Foster announced the appointment of the Committee to Approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting with Barbara Pershing, Chairman, Shannon Ahlman and Barbara Elkin. John Carter was appointed timekeeper.

Judith Carter, Chairman of the Committee to Approve the 2000 Annual Meeting Minutes, reported that the minutes were approved.

Elinor Skelton, Chairman of the Resolution Committee, presented the resolution which is attached. It was **adopted**.

Barbara Pershing, Nominating Committee Chairman, presented the following report: President - Jack Wilson; First Vice President - Janet Riemer; Second Vice President - Linda Owens; Third Vice President - Joyce Stork; Treasurer - Gary Gordon; Secretary - Sue Ramser. No nominations were received from the floor and the officers were elected. Directors: Shirley Berger, Mary A. Boland, Jacquie Eisenhut, Ruth Loomis, and Nancy Moerer. No nominations were received from the floor and the Directors were elected. The installation will take place at the banquet.

President Foster recognized the retiring Directors: Dolores Gibbs, Wilma Namumart, Olive Ma Robinson, Patricia Sutton, and Mary Ann Switzer and the retiring Chairmen: Linda Golubski, Awards; Carolyn Burr, Library; Ann Tinari,

Membership and Promotion; Jane Rexilius, Publications; Dr. Charles Cole, Research; Helen Blanton, Building Maintenance; and Paula Foster, Courtesy.

Mary Boland, Washington DC Convention Vice Chairman, extended the invitation to the 56th Annual Convention to be held May 19-26, 2002 at the Hyatt Crystal City Hotel hosted by the Potomac Council of African Violet Judges and the Mid Atlantic African Violet Society. This is the first time AVSA will come to the Washington DC area. The website is up with the hotel and welcome listed.

Winston Goretsky announced the African Violet Society of Canada's annual convention and show, May 3-4, 2002 at the Best Western Village Park Inn, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

A FAX was received from Anne and Frank Tinari, who were unable to attend, congratulating the newly elected officers and directors. Mrs. Tinari also thanked Bill Foster for serving as AVSA's 30th President.

President Foster announced that the Open Forum and the announcement of the winners of the raffles would be conducted immediately after the close of the Annual Meeting.

There was no further business to come before the Annual Meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 PM.

*Sue Ramser, Secretary  
COMMITTEE TO APPROVE  
Barbara Pershing, Chairman  
Shannon Ahlman  
Barbara Elkin*

# 2001 LSAVC SHOW AND CONVENTION

Irene Harney • Convention Chairman

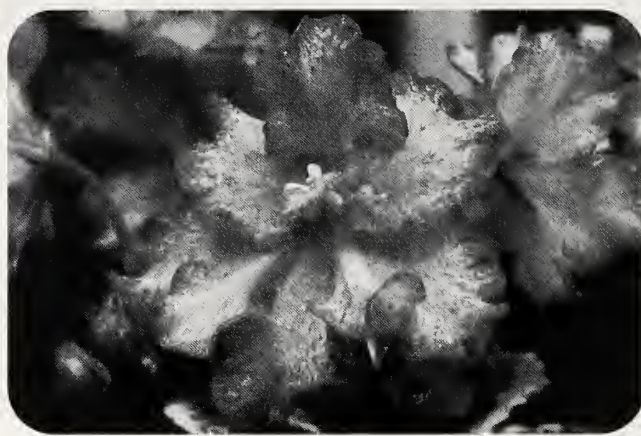
The Magic Knight African Violet Society of San Antonio is pleased to extend a very special invitation to each of you to join us at the Double Tree Club Hotel, 1111 N.E. Loop 410, San Antonio, Texas 78209, November 8, 9, and 10, 2001 for the Lone Star African Violet Council (LSAVC) 2001 Convention and Show. The show will be open to the public on Friday November 9, 2001 from 2pm to 5pm and again Saturday November 10, 2001 from 9am to 5pm. There will also be a commercial sales area so that everyone can go home with lots of violets and gesneriads.

This year's theme is LSAVC, "A Silver Jubilee of Violets". We have taken design classes from each of the different LSAVC Show Schedules presented over the past 25 years which will give all of our Texas growers a chance to walk down memory

lane. We are expanding our design section, as well as introducing three new award rosettes into the horticulture section. Again this year, we will be awarding the prestigious Gladys Hudnall Memorial Award for the Best Gesneriad.

We have two very exciting programs planned for this year to be given by two talented AVSA members. Judith Carter will give a program on design, and Anne Nicholas will give her program on horticulture.

Again, Magic Knight looks forward to welcoming each and every one of you to visit San Antonio in November to see what promises to be a very exciting show. For more information regarding the Convention and Show you may contact either Bill Johnson, Show Chairman at (210) 342-6412 or Irene Harney, Convention Chairman at (210) 684-3598.



## MAAVS 2001

A Carolina Patchwork of Violets in Raleigh, NC

One of the great joys of being involved with African violets is...more violets!! There is nothing more satisfying than attending a show and seeing the amazing plants that other growers have lovingly attended to and transported for others to enjoy (and let's not forget those ribbons!) The enjoyment of connecting with friends, old and new and putting faces with names and e-mail conversations is such fun. There is also the frenzy we cannot help but create in the commercial sales room. The dedicated growers who travel around the country to supply us with our beloved new varieties, leaves, and supplies are truly like members of our family.

It is with all this fun and enjoyment that we invite and welcome all to attend the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society 2001 Convention to be held in Raleigh, NC from Thursday, November 8, 2001 to Sunday, November 11, 2001. Our theme is "A Carolina Patchwork of Violets" and is blossoming with color and creativity. Our design categories are based on well-known quilt patterns such as 'Jacob's Ladder' and 'Wedding

Bouquet'. We also have some Carolina-themed design categories where you can let your creative self go "Hog Wild"!! Don't forget to stop by the Hospitality Suite for some of our world-famous Krispy Crème donuts!

Raleigh is the capital of North Carolina and has many site-seeing opportunities to offer. The area's largest shopping mall is directly across from the hotel. For those wishing to really have a vacation to remember, North Carolina boasts some of the world's most beautiful destinations. Four hours west of Raleigh are the Blue Ridge Mts. You can take in the breathtaking fall colors on the nationally renowned Blue Ridge Parkway, shop for native crafts, or tour the world-famous Biltmore House. The exceptional North Carolina coast is only three hours east of Raleigh. You can visit the Outer Banks with five lighthouses within driving distance of each other, or lounge on the white sandy beaches of the Crystal Coast.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! It will be a fabulous show and we welcome all!

# Members



*Lenora Munk*



*Jean Kaplan*



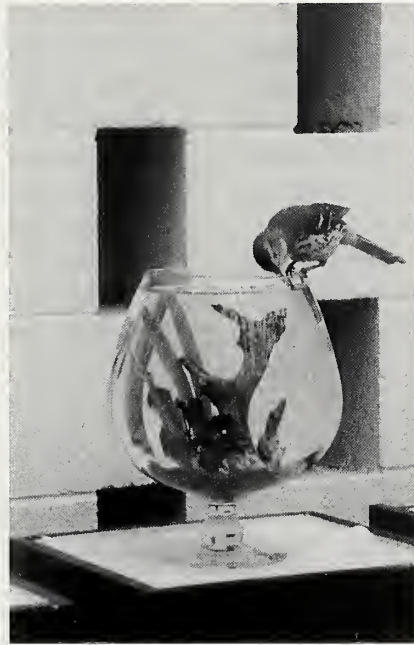
*Susan Hapner*



*Michael Barksdale*



*Margaret Kline*



*Brown Thrasher visits  
Metro St. Louis AV Council Show*



*Doris Shepherd*



*Melissa Shopnitz*

# Growing Miniatures for Show

by Janice Bruns

Miniature African violets have become much more popular for the average grower over the past five years, mainly due to their increased presence in stores and supermarkets since the Optimara® varieties were introduced. For African violet exhibitors, this rise in popularity has occurred over the past ten years or so, as hybridizers have been producing some great improvements in the miniature and semiminature varieties.

Miniatures are now at a point where they routinely give the standards a challenge for the Best in Show award. Some people say that minis should not compete with standards, contending that it takes much more to grow a standard to perfection. I think what they're saying is that it takes more time to grow a standard show specimen, and that means more time for something to go wrong, such as a broken leaf. However, miniatures present other challenges which compensate for their fast maturation - their small size makes them more difficult to handle, and they require more of your time and attention during their growing time.

There are a few other things you should know about minis if you are going to grow them for show. As with standards, the most important factor in growing a good show plant is to start out with a good variety in the first place. While you might be attracted to a plant with a very pretty or unusual flower, that isn't what the judges look for. There are no points awarded for 'prettiness' of blossom. (Size, type, and color of blossom are considered only to the extent that they conform to the description of the variety.) True, a pretty blossom might tend to sway judges, but the plant will score most of its points in other areas.

Look for a plant that has a good rosette - that means not only round, symmetrical, and flat, but also with leaves that overlap each other without leaving gaps between rows. On the AVSA scale of points for judging, of the 100 possible points, twenty-five are awarded for the rosette.

Next, choose a plant that is very floriferous. There are some varieties that will bloom almost constantly, but not many blossoms at one time. You don't want that. You want the one that takes a little rest and then bursts with blossoms all at once. How many blossoms? It's difficult to give a number, as the larger the blossom, the fewer you will need, but I look for a plant that will give me at least 50 at one time. You don't need that many to get a blue ribbon, but if you are going to win a special award (maybe Best in Show), the more the merrier. Remember that twenty-five points are awarded for floriferousness.

Finding these ideal varieties can sometimes be more work than growing them. If you look at the descriptions in some of the catalogs of commercial growers, every one of the plants is top show quality. You might find one hybridizer whose

plants you like and do well for you. My own personal favorite is Hortense Pittman. In fact, I have limited my commercial stock to only her varieties. I do grow some other hybridizer's plants for show (to get more variety). You might prefer Rob's varieties (Dr. Ralph Robinson), which grow a little differently. Or perhaps you are partial to Lyndon Lyon Greenhouse or someone else. If you like their plants and they do well for you, then you are likely to be satisfied with their other varieties.

An excellent way to choose plants is to look in the AVSA's African Violet Magazine. "Tally Time" appears in the March-April issue, with a list of plants winning major awards at African violet shows in the previous year. Also, AVSA members vote for their favorite varieties, and the "Best Varieties" list appears in the November-December issue each year. You might also want to go to some African violet shows to see the plants for yourself.

Now that you've made the choice, the rest of the work begins. The first step is to let the plant bloom once - to make sure that the blossoms are the correct color, type, and size, according to the description of the hybridizer. After that, strip the plant down to a small crown, remove the blossoms and buds, and repot into your soil mixture. I usually use a 2 1/4" pot at this point.

From now until show time you will want to keep the plant disbudded. One of the reasons for disbudding is to divert the energy into growth of the plant. We don't necessarily need that for minis, but the other reasons warrant it. By keeping the plant disbudded, we will frustrate the heck out of it, and when we do let it bloom it will bloom its heart out. Also, I'm a firm believer in keeping growing conditions constant throughout the growth period of the plant. When the plant forms buds the growth slows down, and you will eventually see it in the form of gaps between rows of leaves, or a smaller row of leaves.

Growing show plants is a lot like raising show dogs. The typical show dog is raised as a pet in a home - given loving care by its owners. On the other hand, most of the big winners live in kennels, where many dogs can be cared for at the same time, with less work. The top show winners, however, live with their professional handlers in their homes, where they can be given the best of care. It seems that as we get more violets we use techniques such as capillary matting or wick watering to expedite their care. I use these techniques for the babies, but I like to water all my "adult" plants from the top. This assures that I handle each plant regularly, which makes me more likely to groom it and inspect it for early signs of trouble. Regular grooming is an important part of growing a top show plant. Miniatures need to be watered every three to four days.

Another disadvantage to a constant-watering method is that it tends to make the plant grow larger. You can keep the diameter of the plant down by removing the outer row of leaves, but the leaves will still be oversized, making the plant look more like a young standard.

Since I water from the top, I use a slightly heavier soil mix than most. My recipe is four parts Hyponex® Professional Potting Soil, 1 part perlite, 1 part vermiculite, and 1 part sterilized sand. The soil is pasteurized before mixing with the other ingredients. (The above mixture is cut about 50/50 with vermiculite for rooting leaves.) There are almost as many soil recipes as there are growers, so use what works best under your conditions.

I use Peters® 12 - 36 - 14 fertilizer in a constant-feed program. (A *scant* 1/4 tsp. per gallon for most minis, and a *heaping* 1/4 tsp. per gallon for trailers.) Some growers prefer a 20 - 20 - 20 formula. The numbers don't matter as much as the fact that you use the same formula all the time. Some growers say that you have to alternate fertilizers to make sure that the plants are getting all the nutrients. If you believe this, then mix your fertilizers together and use that mixture all of the time. Otherwise, the plant will be experiencing different growing conditions at different times, resulting in uneven growth.

The only exception I make to this rule is to feed a high phosphorus fertilizer (such as 5 - 50 - 17) a few weeks before I stop disbudding, to promote the formation of buds. After buds begin to form, I return to my regular formula.

As far as when to stop disbudding, there is no set formula. It's usually six to eight weeks before show, but it can vary according to variety and growing conditions. You can try disbudding a plant of the same variety and see how long it takes to get optimum bloom, but if the temperature is different at show time, that figure goes out the window. If you are growing several plants of the same variety, you might stop disbudding each plant a few days apart. If you make a mistake, it's better to be too late than too early. It's hard to keep a plant from blooming, but you can always push it at the end by increasing the amount of light. Several years ago, I was out of town for a long weekend when my timers malfunctioned and the lights stayed on for three days. When I returned, all

the plants were dry, but I had never before seen as much bloom as I did then!

When working with miniatures, you will want to use smaller tools. I use a baby spoon, an hors d'oeuvre fork, and a small X-Acto® knife for most of my work. It would help to have smaller hands, but that's one factor that I can't control.

I like to use plant rings for my show plants. I think it helps to produce a nice, flat rosette. If you increase your lights closer to show time, the leaves will have a tendency to curl downward away from the light. The plant ring prevents this. Also, it is easier to handle the plant without damaging it, and the ring reminds you that this is one of your show plants - handle carefully!

Repot your miniatures often. Unlike standards, which usually have a slight setback after repotting, minis respond very well. You don't have to worry about it being too close to show time. The usual rule of thumb is that the diameter of the pot should be 1/3 the diameter of the plant. This is not necessarily true with miniatures. Some of the 1 1/2" micro-minis would need to be grown in a 1/2" pot. If you could find one, it would require watering twice a day. I like to use a 2 1/2" pot for most semi-miniatures, 2 1/4" for most miniatures, and a 1 3/4" to 2" pot for micro-miniatures.

Getting back to the scale of points for judging, twenty-five points are awarded under "condition." If points are deducted here, none of them should come from the plant being dirty - you have complete control over that. Groom your plant just before showing it. Remove spent blossoms. Brush dirt off the leaves. If it has a neck, repot or add soil around the neck. You can pot the plant down slightly in the pot so that the rim of the pot will help to support the petioles. (A pot with a slightly rolled-rim works best.) This is another advantage of miniatures - doing this with a standard might cause damage.

As you can see, growing a miniature for show can be quite challenging. It's not easy to grow a good miniature, but with the proper techniques and enough attention, you'll find that it's not all that difficult either.

From *African Violet Leaves*,  
publication of the Illinois AVS



Waiting To See  
How The First  
Bloom Looks ...

*This seedling was positioned in the center of the top shelf of a light fixture. Either this little lizard was "sunbathing" or was waiting anxiously to see what the first bloom was going to look like!*

# Repair of Fluorescent Tubes and Fixtures

by Pauline Bartholomew

Author of "Growing To Show"

**TUBES:** If one tube in a double fixture is defective, the other tube will not fully light. First check the ends of the tubes for dark rings; the tube may be burned out. If there are no dark rings, try reseating the dark tube. Tubes sometimes work loose so that the pins are not making proper contact.

If flickering and partial lighting occurs in both tubes when the lights first go on, it is probably condensation caused by the overnight accumulation of moisture. Wait an hour or so until the increase in room temperature and the heat from the ballast help dispel the condensation. If this is the problem, the tubes will light voluntarily.

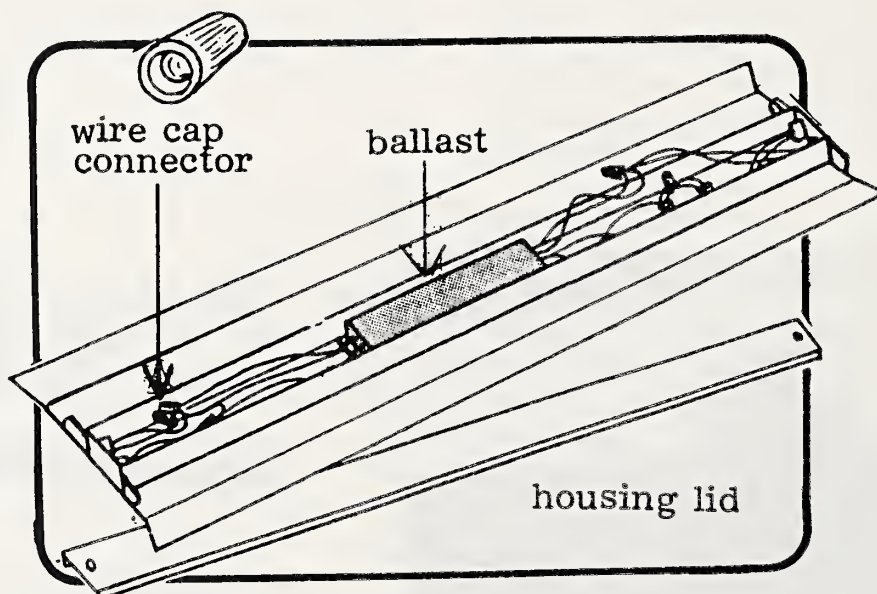
Moisture will also sometimes corrode the metal pins so that they don't make proper contact. Sandpapering the pins will solve this problem.

**FIXTURES:** If both tubes of the fixture are dark, test them in another fixture. If they light, the problem is in the fixture. Even if you have had no experience as an electrician, there are two things you can do before you call for help.

1. **LOOSE WIRES:** Unplug the fixture, remove it from the light stand, and lay it tube-side up on the floor. Remove the tubes and the lid that covers the housing

containing the wires and ballast. Check for wires that may have worked loose. Remove all the caps that cover the exposed ends of the wires. Make sure the two strands of wires are still tightly twisted together, replace the caps, and give them a twist. Replace the tubes and plug the fixture into an outlet. If the tubes still don't light, it probably means that the ballast has burned out. Ballasts usually give a warning of their imminent demise by emitting a loud hum, sometimes for weeks in advance.

2. **BALLASTS:** I have had to replace only two ballasts in 15 years. I don't know if this is the norm or if I have been lucky. Ballasts are expensive and may cost as much as the fixtures. But because of convenience and time, it is usually more practical to replace them. (Ballasts are available at almost all electrical supply stores). This is an easy do-it-yourself project for even the non-electrician. The wires are color coded for easy placement. Lay the new ballast by the *unplugged* fixture and study the positioning of the wires as you remove the old ballast. If all else fails, read the directions! If the process is still unclear to you, find an electrician to do the job.





# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

September Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sat. 7:32 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
2 Sun.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd 4:43 pm
3 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
4 Tue. 7:48 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
5 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
6 Thu. 7:13 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
7 Fri.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
8 Sat.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
9 Sun. 4:41 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
10 Mon	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th 1:59 pm
11 Tue. 11:09 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
12 Wed.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
13 Thu. 2:16 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
14 Fri.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
15 Sat. 2:39 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
16 Sun.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
17 Mon. 2:00 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st 5:27 am
18 Tue	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st
19 Wed. 2:27 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
20 Thu.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
21 Fri. 6:02 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
22 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
23 Sun.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
24 Mon. 1:48 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd 4:31 am
25 Tue.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
26 Wed. 1:05 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
27 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
28 Fri.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
29 Sat. 1:50 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
30 Sun	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd

October Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Mon. 2:08 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
2 Tue.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd 8:49 am
3 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
4 Thu. 1:01 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
5 Fri.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd
6 Sat. 10:12 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
7 Sun.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
8 Mon. 5:19 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
9 Tue.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th 11:20 pm
10 Wed. 9:54 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
11 Thu.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
12 Fri. 11:58 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
13 Sat	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
14 Sun.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
15 Mon. 12:26 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
16 Tue.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	1st 2:23 pm
17 Wed. 1:03 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
18 Thu.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
19 Fri. 3:47 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
20 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
21 Sun. 10:11 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
22 Mon.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
23 Tue. 8:26 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd 9:58 pm
24 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
25 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
26 Fri. 8:56 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
27 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
28 Sun. 9:15 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
29 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
30 Tue.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
31 Wed. 7:48 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd

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# The 7 Myths of Going to Show

by Cheryl Salatino

## Myth #1: Bigger Is Better

One of the most common comments made by the judging panel is about grooming. Typically, a grower will allow one or two of the older rows of leaves to increase the size of the "show plant". Often these leaves show signs of stress, marring or discoloration. Sometimes evidence of a culture change exists. Often, the amount of bloom is determined to be lacking for this larger-sized plant. The grower must understand that it is not just the size of the plant that earns the blue ribbon. It is the overall quality of the plant that counts. A combination of strong symmetry, cultural perfection, quantity of bloom, size and type of blossoms, as well as color of blossoms make your plants real winners!

## Myth #2: My Plants Are Unworthy

We are all guilty of over-scrutinizing our plants. Ever overhear a grower saying, "I have a few plants at home that look as good as that blue ribbon winner"? Unfortunately, as growers, we fear our blooms are never enough, our plants aren't large enough, the symmetry has holes...and the list goes on. Instead of moving aside many perfectly wonderful blue ribbon plants, why not take a step back and try to "judge" your own plants? Take out the AVSA Handbook to determine the range of points deducted for conditions your plant(s) may display. Although some plants may disappoint you during this evaluation, you'll probably be pleasantly surprised. Pack up those blue ribbon prospects to share with your fellow show goers.

## Myth #3: It's Blooming, It Goes

Quantity of bloom is a significant factor in determining an appropriate ribbon. Yet, some growers believe that everything blooming in their plant room **MUST** be entered in a show. Remember, too few blossoms can quickly eliminate all hopes of a blue ribbon. Be aware that size, type, and color of blossoms are also carefully weighed when judging a plant. Before making a show selection, refer to the AVSA Master Variety List to be certain that the description of the plant variety matches your plant's characteristics.

## Myth #4: Suckers Are a Minor Offense

Any single-crown African violet that displays a sucker is **not eligible for an award**. A sucker is defined as the growth

of four leaves and no evidence of a bud. Look carefully at potential bloom stalks to be certain that these are not small suckers. The judges find it very disappointing to have to eliminate a prolific bloomer from ribbon consideration because of this grooming problem.

## Myth #5: Home Grooming Is Sufficient

The judges reward healthy, clean plants. Unfortunately, not all plants entered in a show appear to be as clean as the grower expects. There are several factors to consider in preparing to take plants outside the growing area. To start, remove any dust, soil particles, and pet hair. Carefully pack plants into a clean box. Too often, reusing favorite packing materials can leave dirt and dust deposits on traveling plants. Growers must remember to take their brushes and tools along to the show. One last clean-up can make a big difference.

## Myth #6: Show Rules Stay the Same

How many of us take the time to study the entire show schedule before we get ready for the show? We're all guilty of missing some important detail buried in the rules and regulations. Today, we live in a dynamic environment; nothing stays the same. As growers, we owe it to ourselves (and the show committee) to understand the current schedule. A quick read is not enough. Take a closer look and check off each item as you meet its requirements.

## Myth #7: Window-Grown Plants Don't Stand a Chance

Some growers are able to produce blue ribbon plants with natural light. These are people that typically pay attention to the details of regularly turning plants, protection from direct sunlight, temperature control, and shelter from drafts. Although many window-grown plants do experience cultural problems, several varieties perform extremely well in natural conditions. Look carefully at these plants just as you would those grown under lights. While many growers believe that window-grown plants can only be exhibited in a special class, unless specified in the show schedule, window-grown varieties are eligible for all classes. Enter the best specimens regardless of lighting conditions.

*From Ye Bay Stater,  
publication of the Bay State AVS*



# Microclimates

by Ruth Zavitz

Have you ever said, "Oh, I can't grow that plant, my house is too dry/hot/dark?" A little detective work will reveal a number of microclimates (small areas which differ from general conditions) within your house or apartment. Plants are not able to search out an appropriate environment. It is up to us to find the location which suits them best.

The three conditions which affect plants most are: light, temperature, and humidity. If you investigate, you will be surprised at the variation in these three elements within a house or apartment - even within a single room. A south window is usually brighter than a north one, but not if it is covered by a porch, or shaded by evergreens. A north window is usually cooler than a south-facing one. Taking temperature readings on various windowsills will reveal an amazing variation. Early in the morning the temperature is at its lowest.

All plants like humid conditions, but some need it more than others. Misting is often recommended to raise humidity levels. This is fine, if you have nothing else to do, but the humidity only lasts until the mist dries off. Humidity is always higher in the bathroom and kitchen, and provided there is adequate light, these are the prime locations for plants. In other parts of the house, humidity may be increased by setting plants on trays of pebbles. Fill the tray part - way with water. The pebbles support the pots above the water level.

Moisture, evaporating surface, will keep the air around the plants moist. Plant leaves give off moisture, and grouping plants together will increase the humidity in the immediate area.

For very small plants, or delicate ones, a terrarium is ideal. A bubble bowl, large bottle, or old aquarium (even a leaky one) make excellent containers to maintain high humidity. If the terrarium is completely closed, it must be kept out of summer sunlight lest it heat up too much and boil the contents.

Cool growing houseplants will tolerate high temperatures during the day as long as night temperatures are low enough.

Put such plants in an unheated bedroom or cool basement overnight, and enjoy them in the living room during the day.

Hot air rising from registers under windows is death to plants. Cold air from central air conditioning has a like effect. A piece of glass, 10 inches or so wide, the length of the windowsill, angled outward from the edge of the sill and held by brackets at each end, will keep the offending air off the plants while not restricting your view. Even the adjustable shields which attach to registers by magnets will help.

All plants need light in order to manufacture their food. It is a general rule that if your hand, held between the light source and your plant, does not throw a shadow, it is too dark to grow a plant. In Ontario, full sun in the winter is not too much for any plant you might grow. However, from April to October, plants for which filtered light is recommended should be placed in an east or north window or moved back from the sill.

Lack of light, rather than too much, is the more usual problem. It is interesting that longer hours of light will make up for light intensity. If your African-violets do not bloom in the winter, moving them under a table lamp in the evenings will encourage bloom.

Ordinary fluorescent lights installed about 18 inches above a table or shelf are an ideal environment for houseplants. Watering and feeding may be carried out all year round as if it were summer. The plants will grow lushly and never need turning to keep them from growing sideways as they do on windowsills. One of the new grow lights left on for ten or twelve hours a day will allow a plant to grow and keep its original lush condition.

To grow a plant that is borderline for the best conditions you can provide, start with seeds, a cutting, or small plant. They adapt to less than perfect conditions much better than a mature plant.

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## Dried Flowers in Craft Projects

by Sue Gardner

Dried Flowers can be used to make attractive greeting cards, bookmarks, or pictures. The flowers can be easily dried as follows.

Select your flowers - dark red or purple retain color best. Single flowers that drop are excellent for drying as the sepals are not attacked. If you have "non-dropping" flowers, cut the pedicel off, very close to the back of the flower. If possible, cut it so the sepals are also removed. This produces a flower that is not too thick in the center.

Place a piece of plain paper on a bench. Lay a tissue on top of it. Place your flowers on the tissue, and cover with another tissue and another sheet of paper. Place this between the pages of a very thick, heavy book.

Wait about two weeks before using your flowers.

Visit a garden to find suitable leaves to dry. Select leaves with interesting shapes. Some lavender leaves are thin and small enough to use.

Dry your leaves the same way as you dry your flowers.

Very carefully, glue your flowers and leaves to form your picture. Only a small amount of glue is necessary to attach the flower center to the card, as the petals are fragile.

Cover your picture carefully with clear contact paper to prevent damage and preserve the flower colors.

*From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group*

# Basic Culture and Growing Violets the Brownlie Way

by Rob and Olive Ma Robinson  
Naples, New York

John and Doris have been growing violets for twenty years, and John's hybrids have been grown by hobbyists for nearly twenty years. The Brownlies are among the most respected violet growers and exhibitors in Canada, and also regularly attend AVSA and other shows this side of the border. Their commercial display table was judged best at the 1982 AVSA Convention show in Syracuse, and they have won a number of awards since then. Their lecture gave us some insight into the reasons behind their success.

The Brownlies first outlined some of the basics of violet culture - light, watering, soil, and feeding. They grow under florescent light fixtures, preferring to use two "cool-white", or a mix of cool-white and Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum bulbs, rather than using both Gro-Lux WS bulbs. All lights are on timers and are on for 12 hours, from 3 a.m. to 3 p.m. Varieties with darker foliage are placed under the center of the lights, those with lighter foliage on the outside of the shelf. Variegates are grown on the bottom shelves, where temperatures are lower, and miniatures are placed a bit closer to the lights - 6-8" away, as opposed to 10-12" for standard varieties.

Each plant is placed on a saucer, and receives water from the bottom by filling the saucer with water. Experience tells them how much water to put into the saucer, so that plants aren't over or underwatered. After twenty minutes, the excess water is emptied from the saucers, particularly if the pot feels heavy and adequately watered. Watering each plant individually like this forces them to look at each plant once every four days. This means that problems can be quickly identified and dealt with as they arise. This time can also be used to turn plants on the darker shelf edges, and to trim spent blossoms, etc.

The Brownlies use the old (Ernie) Fisher soil mix, whose basic recipe is:

- 8 quarts sphagnum peat moss
- 2 quarts perlite
- 2 quarts vermiculite
- 2 quarts charcoal
- 2 quarts topsoil
- 1 cup bonemeal
- 1 tbl. ferbam (a fungicide)

They mix the soil themselves, and it can be a bit costly, since some of the ingredients, namely charcoal, can be expensive. Keep in mind that this is the soil mix that they use for their growing methods.

They recommend adding more perlite if plants are to be wick-watered.

As for feeding, they use Peter's 12-36-14, adding a drop of Superthive® to each gallon of water. Other gesneriads, like *Streptocarpus*, are fed with a 20-20-20 formula, and are top-watered.

After outlining the basic cultural requirements, the Brownlies went on to describe the propagation and growing process for their plants. This begins by taking leaf cuttings for propagation. First, when selecting a leaf, don't take the oldest leaves - select mature leaves, but not *old* ones. If it's from a variegated variety, choose a "greener" one - these will root more easily and produce stronger plantlets. Cut the leaf's petiole at a forty five degree angle (cut-side facing up). If cut at a sharper angle, the leaf will produce more, but weaker, plantlets. If at a lesser angle, there will be fewer plantlets, but they will be stronger. Press them into a moist mix of 75% vermiculite and 25% perlite, with a little added charcoal. Then place them under lights in a clear, closed container.

Plantlets should begin to appear within two months. When plantlets begin to appear, break off the top half of the leaf blade. This encourages plantlet, and not leaf, growth. They should be ready to pot-up within about five months. Though this could be done sooner, when the plantlets are smaller, the Brownlies will do this when plantlets are about 1 1/2" in height. Those produced from variegated leaves may appear to be all, or nearly all, white. It's best to wait for some green to appear in the leaves of these plantlets before potting them up.

When potting plantlets, remove the bottom leaves that develop below the base of the plantlet. These leaves won't develop anyway, and may end up rotting. It's best to keep only the best four to six leaves. Plantlets are individually potted into 2 1/2" pots. Then label the pot! They prefer not to use name stakes, since leaves are forced to grow around them, spoiling symmetry.

Standard-size varieties will eventually need to be potted into larger pots - a 4" azalea pot being the next size. To do this, make a "mold" by placing an empty 2 1/2" pot into a 4" pot filled with soil and lining the pot bottom with fiberglass mesh, or screening material. Remove the plant from the smaller pot and check its root system for mealybugs or any other problems. Roots on the outside of the root-ball should be healthy and white. Then drop the plant into the pre-made hole. The Brownlies grow all of their standard varieties in 4" azalea pots unless they are grown for show (showplants are

grown in 5" or 6" pots).

A violet will need repotting when it begins to develop a "neck". Be sure to do this before the neck gets 1/2" to 3/4" long - don't procrastinate. First, scrape the neck clean of the old "stubble", and remove the bottom portion of the root ball at least equal to the length of the neck. Also remove the top 1/4" of soil, since this is where most of the accumulated salts are, especially when bottom watered (you'll notice that roots don't usually grow here anyway). Then place the plant into

its new pot, with fresh soil on the bottom. Be sure that the root ball is flush against some soil on the pot bottom - you don't want to create any air pockets. Now you can add fresh soil to the top to cover the neck. One last bit of advice - it's best not to repot just after watering, since this may make the leaves too brittle to handle without breaking them.

From *VioletsFun Photo Journal*

# Potting, Potting, Potting

by Sue Hodges

When the leaves that you put down last spring have babies that are ready to be potted individually, merely remove the clump from the pot and gently tease the plantlets apart. I only pot up one or two of the babies, discarding the rest with the mother leaf. The exception to this rule is with fantasy varieties which are difficult to get to bloom true. With these, I pot extra babies in the hope that at least one will flower true!

As plantlets grow and fill the pot with roots, I move them on to the next size pot. I generally put baby plantlets into a two inch pot, then move them to a three inch when the plant is about six inch in diameter, and finally, into a four inch pot. The rule of thumb for potting is that the pot should be about one third the diameter of the plant.

When potting on, fill the bottom of a clean pot with mix after positioning the wick, if you use one. Remove the plant from its pot without disturbing the root ball, and set it into the new pot. Check that the crown of the plant is level with the top of the pot and fill in around the root ball with mix. Tap the pot gently to settle the mix and water lightly. Treated this way, there should be no set back to the plant. This process can be repeated each time the plant is moved to a larger pot.

An older plant that needs rejuvenation is quite a different matter. It will probably have a neck or trunk where old leaves have been removed and the pot will contain a solid mass of roots. Remove the plant from its pot and tease the old potting mix away from the roots. Trim the roots with a sharp knife or scissors so that they will fit into a clean pot with the crown of the plant level with the rim of the pot. The roots can be trimmed quite severely without harming the plant. Remove any old or discolored leaves, snapping them off at the base.

Try to keep the plant roughly circular. Gently scrape the neck or stem with the scissors blade or a knife to remove the old leaf scars and expose green tissue. Roots will form along this stem when the plant is repotted.

Set the plant into a new pot and fill in around the stem with potting mix. Water gently to settle the mix. If the pot is wicked, it may be replaced on a container. Give it water only, not fertilizer, for two weeks after repotting. Begin to fertilize again when the new roots have started forming.

After a plant has been treated in this way, be careful not to overwater it. The plant has only a very small ball of roots and will not be able to use the moisture from the mix. If the mix is kept too wet, the plant could rot.

If the neck has become too long for the root ball to be lowered into the pot sufficiently, the plant can still be treated. Take the plant from the pot and strip off the outside leaves to leave a crown about four inches in diameter. Then, simply cut off the whole root system with a knife or blade leaving about one inch of stem. Scrape this to remove the scars.

Select a small pot and fill it with mix. Make a hole in the middle of the mix and set the plant stem into it, making sure that the mix is filled around the stem. Water gently and keep it just damp until the roots form from the stem. The pot may be placed inside a terrarium or similar container as the extra humidity will lessen wilting and encourage root formation. Once roots have formed and the plant has made new growth, it can be moved to a larger pot just as you would a young plantlet.



From "African Violet" News, Official Journal of the  
AV-Gesneriad Society of NSW

# Thinking Small



## Pat Richards

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Something new, something different, something unusual, something improved! Today we'll cover some of this year's new and best miniature and semiminiature introductions, with the help of some friends. To write this column, I called upon Olive Ma and Ralph Robinson from Rob's Mini-o-lets in New York and Shirley Sanders of Shirley's House of Violets in Texas for their insight into this year's new crop of introductions. While not all cultivars are covered, there should be some that will wet your appetite to try something new!

### RADICALLY ROB

From Ralph Robinson, we have several cultivars worth considering, beginning with the miniature 'Rob's Jitterbug'. Everyone agreed the photograph in Rob's catalog doesn't do justice to the beauty of the large, outstanding, medium blue denim-like blooms touched with a faint white edge. If you're willing to overlook the fact the variegation is not the most stable, you'll be rewarded with masses of long-lasting blooms which cover the quickly maturing plant. The foliage is rather attractive, being dark, shiny, and pointed with a white edge. According to Rob, it is quite a popular variety. A small-growing semiminiature sure to be liked by those who see it is 'Rob's Kid Wheezy', which is highly recommended by Shirley. She likes the double white with blue-purple edge blooms, but indicates the degree of blue varies from plant to plant. It is a sister seedling to 'Rob's Miss Sneezzy', introduced last year.

'Rob's Berry Shake' is a light pink with a rather unpredictable amount of crimson red fantasy atop very dark, semiminiature foliage. Rob reports it has excellent show plant potential and should be grown under good lighting because it has a tendency to grow open. Olive believes this cultivar has lots of potential and tends to be under-appreciated. 'Rob's Bunny Hop' is a nice miniature which Rob says is similar to his excellent and vastly underrated 'Rob's June Bug'. 'Rob's Bunny Hop' has dark Tommie-Lou foliage with pink flowers instead of light green topped by white and a touch of rose blooms. Although the blooms may not be incredibly striking, this plant should make an excellent show plant as it blooms

abundantly and shapes nicely. As an aside, Rob indicates 'Rob's June Bug' is a plant which should be grown for show, to which I whole-heartedly agree. While it is not a particularly flashy plant, this reliable cultivar features perfectly shaped foliage and is easily topped with tons of blooms. As for 'Rob's Blue Socks', Rob indicates his fantasy-gone-solid plants are usually thrown out. However, he has discovered this particular shade of blue sells well to non-African violet enthusiasts. They desire the shade for various social occasions, which is why he's continued to propagate this one. As far as I'm concerned, the foliage on this semiminiature is exquisite (it's from 'Rob's Argyle Socks') AND the bloom color is attractive. It, too, deserves to be more widely grown.

### SASSY SHIRLEY

Small lovers rejoice! From Hortense there are several new plants which appear to be very well behaved and stay in size! 'Baby Moon Beam' is a cute miniature with variegated white and emerald green foliage and variable blue and white bell-shaped blooms. 'Honey Puff' is another Pittman miniature which is an exceptional bloomer, having semidouble light pink blooms with white and sometimes green edging. 'Petite Pet' is described by Shirley as an "excellent plant" of hot pink or fuchsia blooms over green variegation. The plant is listed as a semiminiature. However, Shirley indicates it behaves more as a miniature. 'Space Rain' is a very nice, ruffled white over unusual emerald green foliage which has a tendency to ruffle. The final Pittman plant is 'Watermelon Bay' with unusual, slightly wavy pebble foliage crowned by semidouble stars of blue/purple with a frilly white edge. Shirley indicates the bloom is "very nice".

Other relatively new cultivars include "Thunder Surprise", which is a sport of the exceptional hybrid "Teen Thunder". It's a marvelous bloomer which shapes well, carrying a white double blossom with blue eye and green edge atop very nice, emerald green foliage. It has won numerous awards at prestigious shows so grow and enjoy this very popular plant! She also likes 'Optimara Maya Girl', an exquisitely beautiful semi-

miniature with blooms of plush red velvet. She's using it in some of her hybridizing; let's hope for success! From the Brownlie's in Canada, Shirley approves of 'ACA's Fireworks', which has a pretty blossom above nice-growing foliage. She loves 'ACA's Lakeshore Silver', describing it as a beautiful, variegated plant, with pink two-tone blossoms sometimes with hints of white. Another new one is Darryl Hoover's 'Tiny Dancer', which follows along with the other cultivars put out by this very selective hybridizer. It is a Tommie-Lou variegated miniature with dark foliage and a white edge, and easily puts on loads of pink blooms fringed with white. While Hoover describes it as a semidouble, Shirley insists it is more double! I can vouch for it's perfection as earlier this spring I had the opportunity to select a well-grown specimen of this plant, exhibited by Ardath Miller, as Best in Show at the Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council show. It's simply a winner! Two new ones from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses that Shirley highlighted were "Stormy Rays", which has huge, beautiful, dark blue blooms and attractive variegation of cream, pink, and dark green. According to Shirley, it appears most well grown on the edges of the light stand. 'Paprika' is another new Lyon's introduction Shirley is keen on. It sports dark mauve-red double stars with a white pencil edge above dark green foliage. According to Shirley, it is impressive.

#### 2002-YEAR OF THE RED?

As for the future, both Rob and Shirley share the same opinion that not enough miniature and semiminatures are being hybridized. As indicated above, Shirley is attempting

some crosses with an eye to red blooms, and Rob described several very exciting prospects for next year. Let me just say he's heading the same direction, and as usual, has come up with his typically entertaining names. They're blood red, ruby red, and coral on top of show stopping 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' foliage. I told Rob January couldn't come quickly enough! Rob also mentioned the "Mac's" series of plants, which is also carried by Lyndon Lyon's Greenhouses. Rob personally likes 'Mac's Exquisite Extravaganza' which features red blooms with a white edge on good Tommie-Lou foliage. It tends to get a little large, but with good culture can stay in size. Deviating from the red trend, Shirley describes an interesting one for next year in the Brownlie's 'ACA's Green Dragon'. This progeny of 'Irish Flirt' carries the unusually beautiful bloom of its parent on top of well-behaved, flat, variegated foliage. This one I have to see!

#### COOLING DOWN

Whew! It's so exciting to dream of next year's acquisitions, but for now its fall in the Northern Hemisphere, and thoughts begin shifting from outdoor gardening and activities to our indoor life for winter. It's a good time to review your collection and decide which cultivars are worth keeping and which might be best set aside to make room for the new ones. Best preparations are begun now for shows in the spring, beginning with repotting or potting up. It's also a super time to order plants in from various commercials as they're equally anxious to clear this year's stock out for next year's new ones. Bargains abound! Take care, and we'll talk next issue.

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# MORE IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER

by Lola Rossi • San Mateo, CA

A few years ago, I nearly lost all of my many African violet plants by using commercially packaged violet soil with timed-release fertilizer. I was unaware of the fertilizer since I didn't read the front of the packages of soil and I also fertilized my plants each week when I watered. Many of my new baby plants and leaves died, and the adult plants got scrunched up center leaves and all stopped blooming. They looked as plants might when you acquire mites, but for some reason, I was not convinced. Then I read an article in the African Violet Magazine about over fertilizing and that vinegar could help correct the problem. I stopped fertilizing for about a month, used a few drops of vinegar in the water each week, and my plants started to recover.

Since then, I have made lots of new plants and purchased a lot of others. I have quite a large number of mature plants. They should be in bloom several times a year, but nothing has been happening. The leaves on some of the larger plants look good, but no blooms.

I do not have light set ups, and most of my plants receive natural light each day at windows. My favorites, which I would like to bloom, go under lights in the late afternoon until around 10 p.m. However, nothing has been blooming. I have been using a higher nitrogen fertilizer on the babies and a balanced food for the adults with no success.

Recently, a lady friend visited and was looking over my collection as I complained about "no blooms". This lady has just three or four plants, all of which I had given her a number of years ago. They grow in her warm laundry room with only filtered light through Venetian blinds. They are simply huge and constantly in bloom.

She then asked me how often I water and how often I fertilize. "Once a week, every week", I told her.

As she and her husband often go away to Arizona for two weeks at a time, her plants sometimes go that long without water. They only get fertilizer about once a month, if she remembers!

My friend suggested that perhaps a little benign neglect is what has made her plants so successful and that perhaps I was over fertilizing mine. I gave that a bit of careful thought and began to wonder if perhaps she was correct. So about two months ago, I started cutting way back on my fertilizing schedule and taking her suggestion of doing it only about once a month - I have been using Fish Emulsion on the babies and a balanced food or Optimara's 14-12-14 on the adult plants (my plants do not seem to like the really low Nitrogen foods).

To my surprise, I now have several plants in full bloom -

and these were plants which did not even have the best light situation or go under lights at night! So I am beginning to believe that perhaps my friend is correct and that because she is not too generous with her plants because of lack of time, hers are doing very well, whereas mine were not. I am hopeful that I found the solution to my poor bloom problem.

Some of my adult plants do have very beautiful leaves, and I expect they will soon start to bloom for me. These are, for the most part, plants I purchased in bloom locally but then they just grew and produced no additional blooms.

Another thing I have discovered is that my plants love to be in glass enclosures - I have one plant of 'Witch Doctor', which is a very dark fuschia with mosaic patterned variegated leaves. It was planted as a baby shortly after it arrived from Lyndon Lyon late last fall, and now is in full bloom with gorgeous, large leaves which fill the bowl. It is single crown (it hasn't tried to make babies yet) and the leaves just keep extending towards the edge of the bowl and will soon entirely fill this large fish-bowl type of glass container. It is gorgeous, and seems to love the greenhouse environment!

I have another in a similar bowl which is a miniature in medium lavender (no name available) and last spring, it grew to large proportions, filling the bowl. For four months, it was crowned with lavender blooms - dozens of them. Then it got too large for the container so I made a few new babies and replanted the bowl. The new baby is only about two months old, and it is already starting to bloom (this is on my limited schedule of fertilizing). I am hoping to visit the local pet store soon to see if I can pick up another few glass bowls in which to plant some of my favorites.

Last fall, I also ordered a few minis from Robs Mini-o-lets. Shortly after arrival, they were going down hill so I put a couple of them in medium sized glass jars and saved them. Two of the variegated minis, I placed in two large, spare, glass kitchen mixing bowls and covered them each night with plastic wrap to create a hot house environment. They are now doing beautifully! Haven't bloomed yet, but as I cut back on my fertilizers, I'm sure they will soon be in full bloom and the leaves are very, very pretty, as most variegates usually are.

It just seems no matter how long you grow African violets, you never stop learning what works best.

In addition to cutting way back on the times I fertilize, I am more careful not to use too much fertilizer in my water each time. In other words, BE A LITTLE STINGY, as a little goes a long way. They don't appreciate the abundance of food!!

Happy growing.



# Office Violets and Lunch Club Community Project



OVAL President John Nabers  
Cindy Roberson of Southwest Fertilizer  
OVAL Secretary Joyce Stenger (sitting)



Joyce Stenger holding an AVM

Recently, the Office Violet and Lunch (OVAL) group participated in a club community project. At the invitation of Cindy Roberson of Southwest Fertilizer, the OVAL members set up a table of information regarding growing and showing African violets. Free data included African Violet Magazines as well as soil mix recipes, flyers on putting down leaves and

AVSA brochures on violet care. The garden store provided four inch potted blooming violets to sell while OVAL members provided demonstrations on how to put down a leaf in a cup of rooting soil. All the newly planted leaves were given away to interested customers who signed up to be mailed additional data regarding local clubs, shows, and other violet events.



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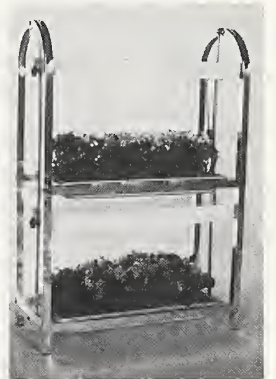
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Concentrate	K-L-N		10.00		
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Dolomite Limestone					2 lbs./\$1.75
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No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium		1.85		3.50
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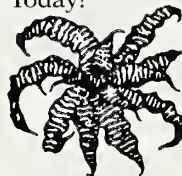
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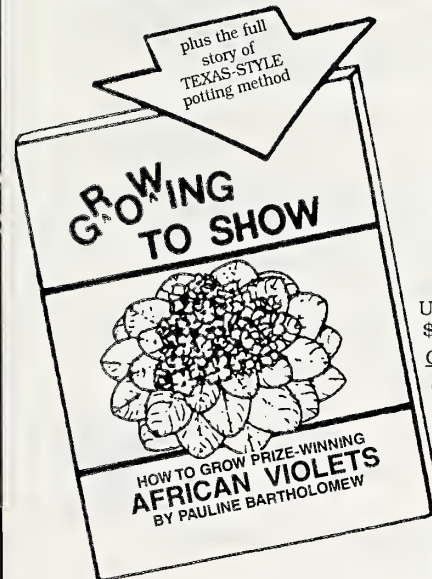
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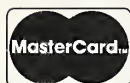
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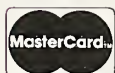
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# African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December 2001

Volume 54

Number 6

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**LIBRARY:** Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ann Nicholas, 3113 Deerfield Dr., Denton, TX 76208-3428.

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**ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS:** Send to Editor.

**Please Note: Deadlines** - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

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**Coming Events Deadlines:** - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. judycart@flash.net

**ADVERTISING DEADLINES:** Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

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**PLANT REGISTRATION:** Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

**RESEARCH:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

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# African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

November • December

Volume 54

Number 6

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Frozen In Time  
Hybridized and Exhibited by:  
**Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses**  
Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

# President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

As I sat down to write this President's Message, my mind continued to be distracted by events of September 11 and the following days. Like so many of you, I was acquainted with some of the people lost. Like so many of you, I feel sorrow and confusion. So I will try to share with you my hopes.

I hope that each of you will value even more the little things in life: your spouse's quirks, your children's foraging in the refrigerator, the affections of your pet, growing violets. All very routine, all very mundane, and all very, very precious.



We are starting a time of family holidays, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas. Let us take the time to thank our God for all those small things, for another day to treasure them, and to reaffirm in our own minds and hearts that these routine, mundane things are gifts from God and of inestimable value.

I hope that you will be able to share these holidays with those you love and that you will make this holiday season a time of renewed commitment to family and community. For those of you with family members in the military, please accept my strong support and gratitude. Our family knows from firsthand experience what you are going through. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Pat and I wish you and yours a most blessed and happy holiday season and pray that we will all make the next year a better and safer one for everyone.

Sincerely,

John E. (Jack) Wilson  
AVSA President

# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email rrumsey@earthlink.net

After coming into the office on the morning of September 11, it was difficult to get my mind on putting this magazine together. As all of you, we were in shock, the radio tuned to a continuous news station, and the silence of the phones, usually very busy on a Tuesday, spoke volumes.

Soon, from other sides of the world, via email, came messages of outrage and support from international African violet friends. Two of the first to reach us were from **Joan Halford** of South Africa, and **Valeriy Smirnov** from Ukraine.

Thanks to all of you from around the world who have kept us in your thoughts.

**Affiliate Publicity Chairmen:** Please make use of the publicity resources available to you locally when promoting your shows. Local newspapers, especially those with Sunday Gardening or Social sections, are a great place to start. Your local television and cable stations may have a Community Calendar, where you can post your events for free. Popular radio stations in your area may also have a community-minded service, broadcasting plant shows and sale information to their listeners. Handmade signs at the local gardening centers are also a good way to get the word out.

I do have a brief publicity statement to send to you upon request, and am always ready to make AVSA slides available to your local newspapers for publicity. These slides are of plants that have already appeared in the AVM.

Membership is of great concern to AVSA. Most plant societies are having a difficult time increasing membership. We have found that through your utilization of local advertising, particularly newspaper articles which mention AVSA, we see an increase in membership. Let me know if I may be of help with your publicity concerns.

Self-proclaimed "African violet nut", **Bob Clark**, Lawrence, MA, wrote to say the he had been thrilled with the possibility of the survival of the species plant, *Saintpaulia pusilla*, which had been previously considered extinct. Bob had a friend contact a plant researcher in the Tanzania area, asking about *S. pusilla*.

This is her response:

"Unfortunately, not much is being done to get *S. pusilla* into cultivation as far as I am aware because they are very fussy. In the field, they are found in very wet, dark, mist forests, with very low temperatures, unlike the *S. goetzeana* that are found in gaps and therefore tend to be exposed to higher temperatures."

"They also have a very flimsy root system and therefore rely primarily on foliar mist and may be limited in nutrient supply."

I recently spoke with new AVSA member, **Richard Follett**, Strasburg, VA. Below are his thoughts, and a haiku written in response to the tragedy last month.

"When I heard about the tragedies of September 11th, I immediately went to my gardening bench and began cutting leaves to root. I thought at first that I just needed a diversion, but I realized later that something much bigger was going on. The following haiku is the result of my reflections on that moment."

9-11-01

*Hope lies in my hand  
Terrorists cannot destroy  
New life from one leaf*

Richard Follett

\*\*\*

**Charli Yandolino**, UAreSoBeautiful.com, asked me to make club members aware that her African violet note cards (featured in the gorgeous ad on page 40 of the September/October AVM) are offered at a discount to AVSA Affiliated Clubs. Violets featured on these cards are photographed from Charli's personal collection. The cards will make nice holiday gifts for violet growers, and can be used for various greetings, as they're blank on the inside. Personalizing is also available. See Charli's ad on page 64 of this issue.

## Correction to September/October 2001 Shows and Judges column:

Page 78: Please change the first sentence on 4 to read:

**Change to :**

**Page 77: Please change the first sentence on 5 to read:**

I was deeply saddened to hear that my dear friend, **Ralph Breden**, of Redondo Beach, California, passed away recently. Ralph was one of the first AVSA members who made a point of welcoming me to my job as Editor of the AVM. Throughout the years, Ralph has been very supportive, offering me advice, contributions to the magazine, and liberal doses of his wry humor. Ralph was very active in local clubs in California, and served AVSA as Library Chairman, the position he held when I first came to work for AVSA. I am so glad that Ralph was able to make the Chicago convention, and that he spent time with me at the ASVA Sales Table. My thanks to Toni, and their two daughters, for sharing this good man with us.





# Affiliate Insert Additions & Corrections

## Please add these to your Affiliate list from the September AVM Insert

African Violet Friends Club  
<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/africanvioletfriends>  
 Gesneriad Lovers Club  
<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/gesneriadlovers>  
 African Violet Connection Lwelchel@satx.rr.com

Pomona Valley AVS  
 President Pat Vinciguerra  
 1350 San Bernardino Rd. #169 • Upland, CA 91786-4942

AV Enthusiasts of Berks County  
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 5 Glenview Dr • Fleetwood PA 19522  
 Avebc@aol.com

Portlandia Violet Club  
 President Blanche Bunker  
 18005 SE Mill CT • Portland OR 97233-5710

Central Florida AVS  
 President Elvie Clاندennig  
 2400 Dolphin Rd • Titusville FL 32780-4574

Edmonton AVS  
 President April Kung  
 17436-104 St  
 Edmonton AB T5X 5W8 • Canada

Gulf AVC  
 President Anna-Marie Rinick  
 2274 SE 28th St. • Cape Coral FL 33904-3332

### Change in Booster Fund Committee Chairman New Mailing Information

Bill Lyons, Chairman of the AVSA Booster Fund for many years, is retiring from the position due to health problems. Thanks you, Bill, for all of your time and devotion to AVSA and the many projects funded by the Booster Fund.

Please send your contributions to the AVSA Booster Fund to the new co-chairmen:

**Shirley Berger and Ruth Loomis**  
 4343 Schumacher Rd - 196E  
 Sebring, FL 33872

## NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE AVSA OFFICE

### 10th Edition of the African Violet Master List

Bound \$22

3 Hole Punched \$20



**November 2 - FLORIDA**  
 Suncoast AVC Plant Sale  
 St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church  
 3747 34th St., S.  
 St. Petersburg, FL  
 Info: Sue MacFarlane (727) 866-8830  
 Email: smacfarl@tampabay.rr.com

**November 3 & 4 - NEW JERSEY**  
 Tristate AV Council Show/Sale  
 Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
 53 East Hanover Ave.  
 Morristown, NJ  
 Nov 3 - 1:30pm - 5pm  
 Nov 4 - 11am - 4pm  
 Info: Dale Jasaitis (609) 298 - 7333

**November 8 - 11 - NORTH CAROLINA**  
 Mid-Atlantic AVS 2001  
 Convention & Show  
 Sheraton 4 Points Hotel  
 Raleigh, NC  
 Info: Libbie Glembocki  
 Email Libbie@attglobal.net

**November 8 - 10 - TEXAS**  
 Lone Star AVC  
 2001 Convention & Show  
 Double Tree Club Hotel  
 1111 N.E. Loop 410  
 San Antonio, TX  
 Info: Bill Johnson (210) 342 - 6412  
 Irene Harney (210) 684 - 3598

**November 17 - NEW YORK**  
 Metropolitan Regional Council of  
 African Violet Judges  
 Judging School  
 Clark Botanic Gardens  
 193 IU Willets Rd  
 Albertson, NY  
 Fax or email for  
 application and information  
 Lillian H. Banchik  
 Email: ihbanchik@aol.com  
 Fax (516) 829 - 1849  
Application Deadline - Nov. 10, 2001





**Dale Martens**  
2728 Masters Drive  
League City, Texas 77573  
*email martens@wt.net*

## Final Pearls of Wisdom

I wrote my first column in February of 1997. It's time to highlight the pearls of wisdom that I think were the most important. Here we go!

- 1) Leap-frog, crawl, hurdle, hop, dance, to the next AVSA convention. I don't care how you get there, just be there! Why? You will be energized, electrified, entertained, educated, and excited being surrounded by people with the very same addiction to the joys of growing African violets and gesneriads that you have. You'll enter a huge ballroom and see hundreds of show quality plants that will cause a sharp intake of breath and a flush of adrenaline. This happens even to those of us who've attended a dozen of these conventions! When you get the convention issue of this magazine, send in your registration immediately!
- 2) *Streptocarpus* don't grow naturally in swamps, so the worst thing you can do is to keep their roots soggy. If you wick water, use a mix that's about 50% fine perlite to lighten the mix. When repotting streps, don't bury them lower than they are in the pot right now.
- 3) When entering streps in a show, it's perfectly fine to trim the leaves, especially with one of those new-fangled craft scissors with pinking shear-like teeth. For pity's sake, cut the leaf following a natural *Streptocarpus* leaf curve!
- 4) Never allow rhizomatous plants to wilt. Lack of water will be the signal for them that there's a drought coming and it's time to blast buds and start making rhizomes!
- 5) Many tuberous gesneriads go dormant. You'd be smart to take a tip cutting before the plant begins to die back. Leave about three leaves on the original tuber. Now remove the bottom two leaves of the tip cutting. Plant the tip cutting up to the next set of leaves. Keep it in a humid environment for about a month until it roots.
- 6) Planting a leaf from a tuberous plant, such as a miniature *Sinningia*, will not likely give you anything but a "blind tuber". In order to get a new plant, you need to remove the top of the plant, leaving behind three leaves. Then split that tip cutting in half length-wise; that is, from top to bottom. Now cut sections so that each leaf has a piece of stem. Plant the leaf and stem almost up to the bottom of the leaf blade. Your new baby will emerge from the internode between the stem and leaf.
- 7) If you want your local club to survive, put on a show for the public. Have a sign-up sheet on hand promising you'll send a newsletter. Have postcards on hand so that you can notify interested attendees about your next show.
- 8) When those new members attend, give them a free plant! Also, show them how grateful you are that they made the effort to attend. Keep your business meeting short.
- 9) When your club has a show, have fun! About sixteen years ago, I went to a shopping mall and there just happened to be a show. The club was selling raffle tickets for prizes to be drawn on the hour, and you had to be present to win. I stood around for about forty minutes to see if my ticket would be drawn. I silently watched the Grow and Study Gesneriad Club members as they laughed, joked, and sang "Happy Birthday" to one of their members. These people obviously liked each other and were having

fun! Was my ticket drawn? No, but I was a winner...big time! I joined that club with those happy people and the rest is history!

- 10) Read #1 again! Don't be shy! If you've never been to a convention, find someone else in your club who has never gone and share a room! It'll be in Washington D.C., so sign up for the tours!

My first column mentioned that you should always ask three people the very same plant growing/showing question. If two of the responses are very similar, follow that advice. If none are similar, then do whatever seems the easiest for you to follow. One of the folks you might ask is Georgene Albrecht. She is extremely knowledgeable about gesneriads and wrote the gesneriad column, "A Family Portrait" for this magazine

the five years preceding me. Georgene is an absolute delight, and when people talk about her they smile and their eyes sparkle. I had dinner with her at the AVSA convention in Chicago. I told her I had exhausted my gesneriad advice ideas and was about to give my resignation to the Editor, Ruth Rumsey. I said I'd feel better if I first found someone to replace me. I asked Georgene if she was interested. "YES!" was her instant and enthusiastic reply! You will enjoy reading her columns!

I would like to thank our editor, the creative and fun Ruth Rumsey, for her helpful guidance! In addition, thanks to all of you AVSA members for your support these past years, with my special gratitude to those who shared their gesneriad growing experiences in this column. I will see you at the next AVSA convention! Just look for a short, sassy redhead!



# Precepts to Grow by - for New Exhibitors

by Ruth Coulson • Australia

## Even plants need support

We might not mind some unsymmetrical, uneven plants on our shelves at home, but they are not the ideal for exhibiting. The best show plants have a symmetrical form, a circular shape. They also have the leaves more or less level with the top of the pot, displayed flat and evenly, with the flowers atop in a mound in the center. Would that we all could produce the ideal! Some African violets are more inclined to give us this shape than others, but most can benefit from the use of a leaf support to train the leaves to grow the way we want them. This is especially beneficial for growing in natural light.

The leaf support is anything round and flat which can sit at the level of the top of the pot to prevent the leaves growing downward. They can be anything from plastic plates, a circle of heavy cardboard (supported by two kebab sticks lying across the top of the pot), to plastic supports, perhaps held in place with elastic bands. Come up with your own ideas, keeping in mind what you are encouraging the plant to do. The best supports reach just about the full width of the plant. Miniatures need small supports; standards need large ones.

Additional benefits of leaf supports include protecting the plants' leaves from physical damage if accidentally bumped, and keeping plants well spaced in the growing area so they don't distort each other.

## If you want a round plant, turn it round

In pursuing a round and symmetrical plant, turn it regularly. At least once a week is what we should strive for, but

let's do it as often as we can. This also is particularly beneficial for plants grown in natural light.

If a plant is set in place and never turned, it will grow so that it presents the flat of its leaves to the light as much as possible. If this should be at a window, the plant will grow to one side. Regular turning, especially in conjunction with the use of a leaf support, will produce a flatter, more symmetrical plant.

## Never give a bug an even break

Does something look "funny" with your plants? If it looks like a bug infestation, it probably is. Never, never, never delay dealing with any kind of bugs. If you grow African violets for long enough, you will have pest problems. You have not been singled out. You are just suffering like the rest of us.

The three main pest problems are mites, soil mealy bugs, and thrips. They are all horrors! But the rest of us cope with them and so can you. The best thing to do is to prevent infestation of your plants, but despite your best quarantine and hygiene precautions, you will eventually have to deal with the problem. When that happens, use the appropriate pesticide or fungicide on your plants. Sometimes, the best solution is to discard the plants affected and spray the rest. If you have any doubts at all, speak to an experienced grower. If possible, take the affected plants to a meeting (carefully packed and covered in plastic so possible bugs can't spread) and ask for help.

*From The African Violet,  
official Journal of the AVA of Australia*



**Kent and Joyce Stork**  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S.  
Fremont NE 68025  
kents@tvsonline.net

## KEEP IT SIMPLE

Maybe you have heard of the KISS principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid). It isn't too polite, but it often works well. The more we complicate anything, including our growing techniques, the more likely we are to have troubles.

So what are the simple rules of growing violets?

### **Rule #1 Good light**

African violets love good, bright light that isn't hot. For those who grow in natural light in most American homes, that means that violets should be within a foot or so of a window that lets in lots of light. However, the air temperature in that location should not rise above eighty degrees Fahrenheit during any part of the day. In the early days of violet growing, when homes were never air conditioned, the north window was often the perfect choice. This was not because it was bright enough, but more likely because it wasn't too hot in the summer. Today, many growers find that east windows or south windows with sheer curtains work best.

Many advanced growers prefer to use artificial light in order to achieve more even growth and regular blooming. Fluorescent tubes provide the most effective and available lighting. These need to be on ten to twelve hours a day if the tubes are about twelve inches above the foliage. If the tubes are closer to the leaves, the lights may run for a shorter time period. The KISS principle can be applied here using simple fluorescent light fixtures found in many discount stores. The lights can be simple "cool white" tubes, or the fancier tubes designed for growing plants. Either will produce satisfactory growth, but the latter will also visually enhance the colors of the flowers, especially the pinks and reds.

### **Rule #2 Even water**

African violets like to have a little moisture around their roots at all times. They are prone to crown rot disease if the soil is too wet. They will bloom less freely if allowed to become quite dry in between waterings. Getting the perfect balance is probably the most important skill in growing violets successfully.

Soil will become too wet when plants are allowed to stand in a saucer of water for more than about thirty minutes. This can also happen when soil mixes are very heavy and absorb too much water for roots to thrive. These wet conditions allow the crown rot fungi to thrive and also give the spores a pathway to enter violet roots.

Those who choose to water by applying water to the top of the soil or by filling a saucer with water, need to remember to *apply plenty of water and then drain the excess promptly*. Done once a week, violets will usually thrive. In very dry air situations, or when violets are in full bloom, it may be helpful to add a small amount of water once during the week to avoid excessively dry soil.

An alternate method of keeping the soil evenly moist is to use a constant water system. There are several variations, but in keeping with the KISS principle, wicking is the most basic. To do this, a man made fiber (such as acrylic yarn or nylon cord) is drawn through the root ball with a length left dangling out the bottom of the pot into a reservoir of water. The water will wick up the fiber into the soil at a gradual rate, keeping the soil moist. It is very important 1) that the wicking material be damp when it is inserted, 2) that the soil be light and porous (see below), 3) that there is a space between the bottom of the pot and the top of the water and

4) that water is always available in the reservoir. The reservoir can be a commercially designed system, a tray with screening laid across the top, or a simple plastic container (like a margarine tub) with a hole cut in the lid for the wick to drop through.

**Rule #3 Good Potting Mix**

Good potting mix is essential for vigorous root structure, which results in African violets blooming and growing well. Unfortunately, obtaining a good mix is not as simple as going to the store and buying one because so many of the commercially packaged mixes are heavy and poor quality for violet culture, even when they label the mix for African violets. Truly, the best soil is obtained by mixing it at home. The simple tried and true recipe is: one part milled sphagnum peat moss, one part coarse perlite, and one part coarse vermiculite. Some growers add charcoal or chemicals to amend the soil pH. The resulting mix should have a very loose quality that will allow roots to grow freely with no hindrances.

It is also important to avoid compressing the soil when repotting. The loosest mix will not work well if the air pockets have been compacted by a heavy hand. It is best to pile the soil lightly into the pot and around the roots. When water is added, the potting mix will settle firmly enough around the plant to hold it in place. The lighter the touch, the better!

**Rule #4 Small Pots**

African violets have always grown best with their roots in tight spaces. In nature, they grew in the cracks or pockets between rocks. In the hundred or so years since they were discovered, we have found that violets do best when grown in shallow pots (no more than four inches deep) that are one-third the diameter of the leaves. This means if your plant is twelve inches across, the most appropriate pot is four inches across. We find that a four inch pot is ordinarily the best size for most standard-sized violet varieties (two-to-three inch pots for the miniature or semiminature varieties) being grown for personal satisfaction. If you were growing for competition, you could make this more complicated, but we are keeping it simple.

Growers have found that leaves often root and produce offspring more quickly in smaller pots. Young plants bloom

more quickly in small pots. Mature plants grow more vigorously when their roots completely fill the pot.

What about repotting a mature plant with a neck that has developed from losing lower leaves? A bigger pot is rarely a good choice! Rather, the roots need to be trimmed and the violet placed back in the same sized pot. A mature violet will *not* continue to grow a larger and larger root system as it ages, so a larger pot is not required. When repotting is correctly done, the lowest leaves will be even with rim of the pot and the neck will be buried. If the roots were trimmed severely (or even completely cut away) in order to position the plant precisely, it would be wise to place the plant in a clear plastic bag after watering and seal it tightly closed. After a month or so, the plant should be well rooted again and ready for normal growing conditions.

**Rule # 5 Fertilizer**

African violets need to be fed, especially when grown in the recommended potting mix that provides very little nutrition. There are a number of good quality violet fertilizers that provide key elements to promote blooming, good growth, and general health. The key is to use the fertilizers regularly but sparingly.

Most growers have found that constant fertilizing (in a constant water system) or weekly applications provide the best results. Many of the water-soluble fertilizer labels recommend 1/4 teaspoon in a gallon of water used weekly. If this is going to be used in a constant water reservoir that may have evaporation, it may be wise to cut it back to 1/8 teaspoon to a gallon of water.

Using too much fertilizer can be harmful to violets. Leaves may develop discolored edges, salts can build up, and plants will not flourish. In fact, it is wise to leach the soil occasionally with clear water to rinse out excess salts that can build up in any fertilizer program.

**It Doesn't Need to be Difficult**

African violets became popular partly because they were so easy to grow. In most cases, when violets are not thriving, it is a simple change that is needed. When you find a beautiful violet, you will often find a grower who says, "I don't really do anything special." That is an individual who has learned the secret of Keeping It Simple!

**Boyce Edens Research Fund**

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# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
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African violets are grown mostly for their flowers, but the foliage and type of plant are also important considerations. These characteristics are under genetic control and can be planned for by a hybridizer when making a cross. Some of these characteristics are given below.

	<b>Dominant</b>	<b>Recessive</b>
<b>Leaf Traits:</b>	Girl Foliage	Boy Foliage
	Ruffled Foliage	Plain Foliage
	Plain Foliage	Spooned Foliage
	Longifolia Shape	Rounded Shape
	Red Backing	Green Backing
	Watermelon Veins	Plain Veins
	Clackamus Veins	Plain Veins
<b>Plant Traits:</b>	Small Size	Normal Size
	Non-trailing	Trailing

**Q:** *Is there a genetic reason as to why it is harder to get the leaves of the older cultivars to grow as overlapping rows like the modern cultivars do?*

**A:** If you look at the pictures of the early African violet cultivars, or if you grow any of these plants, you'll notice that none of them had leaves that grew as overlapping rows. The leaves were more elliptical in shape and naturally had spaces between the rows of leaves. Today's show standards have emphasized the trait of overlapping leaves. Plants that showed this character were selected for and were more successful in shows. Hybridizers have responded to this by using these plants heavily in their breeding programs. The result over time is that many of the modern African violets have more rounded leaves that form overlapping rows of foliage.

One or two of the *Saintpaulia* species clones that I grow have very round leaves. This leaf shape was apparently part of

the modern cultivar genetic history, but has been highly selected for over time. I suspect that rounded leaves are a genetic recessive to elongated leaves.

**Q:** *Can different types of fantasy patterns be combined together in the same flower?*

**A:** Yes, while I was at the AVSA convention at Chicago, I was shown pictures of some new hybrids that have done exactly this. The plants have the puff style fantasy combined with self fantasy. The flowers have puffs of color such as pink on a blue background, but both the puff and background colors are further broken up by lighter and darker streaks. The color changes caused by the streaking are somewhat subtle, but can be easily observed. The overall effect is a very flamboyant flower color. Hopefully, these new hybrids will be released soon.

**Q:** *I've heard it said that reproducing plants by blossom stem cuttings produces more stable plants than using leaf cuttings. Is there any truth to this?*

**A:** The answer may depend on the type of plant you are trying to reproduce, the speed of production, and number of offspring desired. For example, chimera plants can only be reproduced from buds such as those found on blossom stem cuttings. This type of reproduction is slower and produces fewer offspring, which is why chimera plants often cost more than regular African violets. Fantasy plants are often unstable and don't always reproduce true to type by leaf cuttings. Using blossom stem cuttings may help give higher yields of true type fantasy plants, but again the number of plants produced will be lower. Plants with solid color flowers are likely to reproduce true through leaf cuttings. Since this method produces more plants in a faster time, leaf cuttings would likely be the preferred method for reproducing these plants. In summary, blossom stem cuttings are likely to have a higher success rate

in being true to the original plant, but the number of offspring produced and the speed of production may not always justify the use of this method.

**Q:** *How would I produce flowers that are fringed or ruffled in the thumbprint pattern?*

**A:** You should be able to produce this type of flower in one generation. Both fringed/ruffled flowers and the thumbprint pattern are genetic dominant traits. Cross a good fringed/ruffled flowered plant with your favorite thumbprint pattern plant. About 25% of the offspring should have both traits combined together.

**Q:** *What type of breeding program would you suggest for producing plants with either cold or heat tolerance?*

**A:** The classic way to produce these plants would be to

grow a number of different cultivars under the stress conditions (cold or heat) and see which ones survive. Cross the surviving plants together and subject the F1 seedlings to the same stress. Cross the surviving F1 plants together and continue the selection process. After several generations, the surviving plants should have characteristics that are allowing them to tolerate and survive the stress.

Some of the *Saintpaulia* species plants are from warm areas, while others grow at high elevations and are likely adapted to colder growing conditions. These plants might make good genetic material for the hybridizing project too. Crossing the species plants to modern cultivars will improve flower type and extend the range of flower colors in the offspring. Eventually, selection may produce cultivars with acceptable flowers that are stress tolerant. In either case, expect the process to take several generations (and years) of work. Good luck!



# GROOMING HINTS

by Marjorie Lambert



- Remove any dead or dying flowers, particularly do not leave one flower remaining alone on a peduncle.
- Remove all suckers with long tweezers or a sucker plucker.
- Remove all yellowing, marked and immature leaves.

## Brushing

Foliage may be brushed with a very soft brush working from the petiole to the tip of the leaf. An old shaving brush or, if you have aspirations of being artistic, a sable paint brush is excellent.

## Washing

This should be carried out when the room temperature is about twenty degrees C, or sixty five degrees F, or higher. Use tepid water and keep the plant warm after washing - don't forget *Saintpaulia* are tropical plants. If the water used is too cold, irreparable damage can be done to the foliage resulting in spotting and discoloration. Similarly, damage will occur if the water is too hot. A small natural sponge makes an excellent washer. Its texture becomes soft and pliable when wet and does not damage delicate foliage. These sponges are often available in cosmetic areas of many shops.

Plants should not be returned to natural light positions when foliage is still wet; they should be kept warm until dry then set in their usual growing area.

Plants which are grown under lights may be returned to their normal position immediately. If water has collected in the crown or other areas, blot up the spill.

Washing plants can result in leaching of fertilizer and soil erosion from the pot. If this happens, allow the pot to drain, then loosen the remaining soil and top up with fresh soil. Brush all soil from petioles. If you wish to prevent this erosion, a plastic bag can be wrapped around the pot up to the neck of the plant. This will not exclude every drop of water, but it will prevent complete saturation of the soil.

Peg any wayward unsymmetrical leaves into a better position, being careful to move them a little at a time rather than one big adjustment which could result in breakage and disaster. Adequate stakes can be made from plastic toothpicks, hairpins, etc.

Clean the pot and make sure that it is correctly labeled with the name of the plant and the last potting and/or topping up date.

From Early Morn AV Group Newsletter

# Vintage Violets



**Barbara Elkin**  
*Vintage Violets Committee*  
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 Auburn, CA 95602-9674  
*email: bjabar@earthlink.net*

## In the Good Ol' Summertime

Summer was a very busy season for me. However, I did get all the catalogs entered into my Master list. I'm in the process of sending out cards to those I found plants for. I've had some very nice letters from people thanking me for this

big service provided by AVSA. I'll pass on the Thank-You to you the members that make this service available. THANK-YOU, THANK-YOU, THANK-YOU.

## AVSA Most Wanted

Appassionata	El Dorado	Juline	Maverick's Night Rider	Reddy	Some Like it Hot
Bing Cherry	Fantasy Wasp	Karla Lou	Meek's Checkerboard	Revolutionary Red	Spyder
Blue Le Fleur	Fashion Frenzy	Killinton	Baby	Rob's Whoopie	Star Dream
Buttercup	Flirtation	Knee High	Mini Fantasy	Robyn Lynn	Sultry
California Gold Rush	Filled Blue	Krista Lynn	Natchez Frank	Ruffles	Tanforan
Cape Cod	Granger's September Song	Lady's Whim	October Sunset	Scottie	Twilight Zone
Cimarron	Gambler's Daughter	Lilthe Lassie	Old Black Joe	Shadow Dream	Wells Fargo
Cloud Nine	Garfield	Lorna	Old Gold	Shangri-la Dream	Wine & Roses
Columbella	Gold Coast	Lovely Lace	Peppermint Wasp	Singing Surf	Winged Flirt
Dandy Dancers	Golden State	Merida Wasp	Pilgrim Villager	Skagit Lil Bonus	Wrangler's Fargo
Date's Fanfare	Holly Doodle	Marie's Forgotten Love	Pilgrim Yule	Skagit Pixie Doll	Outlaw
Dave Masterson Wasp	Jimmie Crack Corn	Marie's Pomo Chief	Pink Fingers	Skagit Toy Asset	Zuri
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CONTRIBUTIONS 1 JUNE - 31 JULY 2001

Brazos Valley AVC, Bryant, TX . . . . . \$100.00 <i>Balance of Treasury. Apply to the Microfilm Project.</i>	Rosemary Miller, Jasonville, IN . . . . . \$2.00	Town & Country AVS, Redlands, CA . . \$25.00 <i>In memory of Harry Ande. Apply to the Microfilm Project.</i>
AVC Burlington County, Burlington, NJ. . 30.00 <i>In lieu of judges travel expenses - Jill Fischer and Bob Kurzynski, Morris County AVC; Lee Borey and Florence Friedman, Bergen County AVS; Fred Hill, Garden State AVC; and Janet Riemer, Union County AVSA. Apply towards the California Microfilm Project.</i>	Susan Stewart, Wildomar, CA . . . . . 10.00 <i>Apply to the California Microfilm Project.</i>	Delta Gesneiad and AVS, Sacramento, CA . . . . . 15.00 <i>Apply to the California Microfilm Project.</i>
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AVS Pensacola, Pensacola, FL. . . . . 1.00	Linda Garramone, Bay Shore, NY . . . . 10.00	Richard & Lois Szastak, Melville, NY . . 50.00 <i>To celebrate the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Jerry &amp; Carol Sulewski, North Bellmore, NY. Congratulations and God Bless You.</i>
Martha Spyridon, Delray Beach, FL . . . . 10.00	Armand Arata, Leonia, NJ. . . . . 20.00 <i>In memory of Gregory Tatarian</i>	<b>TOTAL: . . . . . \$521.00</b>
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	Kevin Buck, Clifford, MI . . . . . 32.00 <i>In loving memory of my mother, Elizabeth L. Buck</i>	



# My Experience with Episcias

Elizabeth Whitesides • Raleigh, NC

I've been growing some of the other Gesneriads almost as long as I've been growing African violets. Episcias were the first violet cousins I grew, because I fell in love with their velvety, colorful foliage. I have heard many people say they don't grow episcias because they are too delicate and need lots of special care, or they simply won't grow or bloom for them no matter what they do. Before I "knew what I was doing" I had no trouble growing episcias. They cascaded gracefully and symmetrically out of their pots and bloomed constantly. They grew like weeds for me; I had an *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch' at work that completely covered a coffee table! Then I "became educated" and all heck broke loose with my plants (and my checkbook)! I bought a big lightstand with the most expensive bulbs. I tried wicking, capillary matting, and Texas-style watering. I used high-tech fertilizers and additives and even tried to create my own special soilless mix. I think I tried about every growing technique known to man, and my Gesneriads suffered greatly along the way.

It took me awhile, but I think I finally figured out the soil mix, watering method, and lighting that works best in my environment. Most of my Gesneriads are doing well. I even won a few blue ribbons last fall, including a Best in Class (okay, so there was only one other violet in that class with mine, but by golly, I won!). However, I had completely lost the ability to grow an *Episcia*. I would buy beautiful, healthy plants, take them home, put them on my "system", and watch them promptly bleach out, shrivel up, and die. Last year, one of my hideous episcias won my club's "Ugliest Gesneriad Contest" by a mile. I came up with the contest to cheer myself up. I thought if I could see that everyone else struggles with a plant or two, I wouldn't feel like such a failure. Well, everyone else just

brought violets with a few suckers or some small outer leaves! My plant was so bad I was afraid they were going to refund my dues and kindly ask me to hand over the club checkbook! One of the girls told me, "Your *Episcia* is dead; it just doesn't know it!" It was so humiliating.

Where was the magic touch I once had with episcias? Surely they must appreciate the nine hours of Gro-lux light per day, the fancy soil mix, the leaching, the misting, the filtered water and the special urea-free fertilizer lovingly wicked to them from sparkling clean, white reservoirs? They most certainly did not.

Last winter, in sheer frustration, I banished them from my lightstand and their reservoirs. I didn't even bother to restart them from cuttings (cuttings of what?!). I just left them as they were – sparse, shriveled up, and bloom-free. I put them a few feet from a bright, west-facing window. In spring I moved them to a shelf under a north-facing window in my bathroom, which is a little too cold for Gesneriads in the winter. I top water them with water straight from the tap, and when I remember to, I fertilize them. Amazingly, they perked up, filled out, and started blooming like crazy. They look great – one of them could even pass for a show plant!

I know many people successfully grow episcias on lightstands with a constant-feed watering system. My experience has shown me that in my environment, episcias do not thrive with as much light, food, and water as my violets enjoy. If you have been unsuccessful with episcias, why not try growing them in natural light, watering them by hand, and feeding them only once a week as I do? Maybe you too can be on your way to growing and enjoying beautiful, blooming episcias. Good luck!

## Affiliate Update

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*

7992 Otis Way • Pensacola, FL 32506 • [Promers22@hotmail.com](mailto:Promers22@hotmail.com)

**Congratulations and welcome to the following new affiliates:**

### African Violet Enthusiasts of Berks County

*Club Coordinator* - Vicky Sokoloff  
5 Glenview Drive  
Fleetwood, PA 19522 • (610) 944-0846

### Fantasy Violeteers

*President* - Briony Gniechwitz  
50 Medley Lane • Oroville, CA 95966

### North Lake African Violet Society

*President* - L. Fyrne Overley  
38725 Grey's Airport Road  
Lady Lake, FL 32159 • (352) 750-9722

### Town & Country African Violet Club

*President* - Chris Leppard  
1884 Mill Pond Drive  
Oxford, MI 48371-6035 • (248) 693-2415

### New clubs are forming in the following areas:

### Palm Beach, Jupiter, and Tequesta in Florida

Contact - Margie Geissler  
18944 SE Arnold Drive  
Tequesta, FL 33469 • (561) 747-8705  
E-mail [Mjgeissler39@aol.com](mailto:Mjgeissler39@aol.com)

### Puerto Rico

Amantes de las  
violetas africanas en Puerto Rico  
Contact - Ruthiris E. Torres - Lider  
Urb. Tomas Carrion Maduro 1 #68  
Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico 00795  
Tel/Fax (787) 837-2854  
E-mail [rietacruz@yahoo.com](mailto:rietacruz@yahoo.com)



# Violets in Winter

by Ruth Grieco

Once again, another season is on our doorstep to wreak havoc with our violets. With each changing season comes a new set of growing conditions to contend with.

Winter can be very difficult for your violets, especially if you grow your plants on a window sill. Glass is an excellent conductor of cold temperatures, which is something your violets will not tolerate very well. The cold can distort or, even worse, kill the foliage. Also, plants are less likely to generate many blossoms if the temperature falls below 65°. One suggestion is to install storm windows. A more economical solution is to use the "plastic storm windows" which mount with invisible tape to a window frame and shrink tight when you apply heat from a hair dryer. These "storm windows" are manufactured by 3M® and are available at most hardware stores. Either method will raise the temperature at the window by six to ten degrees, which may be just enough to keep your plants in good health, temperature-wise.

Another problem with major day/night temperature changes is the possible appearance of powdery mildew. Of course, the best treatment for this condition is to do everything possible to avoid getting it in the first place, but sometimes that is easier said than done.

In the July, 1996 issue of *Ye Bay Stater*, Cheryl Salatino addressed the problems and suggested some preventative measures in her column, The Question Corner. Just for a quick review, since powdery mildew is partially caused by poor air circulation, try running a small fan to improve the air circulation (consider running it at night when the conditions are most likely to spread powdery mildew). Keep day and nighttime temperatures within a ten degree variance, and hold humidity levels to approximately fifty to sixty percent. When the heat in your home is on, it is probably a good idea to either run a humidifier or have open containers of water placed within your growing area. I fill decorative pitchers and jugs with water and place them on the shelves with my plants. They serve a dual purpose by adding both visual interest and humidity at the same time.

Cheryl goes on to say that powdery mildew

cannot live in water and, therefore, a good sink bath with warm water can go a long way to control the problem. Another suggestion is to spray your violet growing area with Lysol® deodorizing room spray. I'm sure you all know the expression "necessity is the mother of invention." Well, at one point, I ended up combining the warm water bath with Lysol® liquid solution. I had received a leaf from a grower who had powdery mildew and I was concerned that growing the leaf would bring powdery mildew to my entire collection. The first thing I did was take the leaf and swish it around in a dish filled with liquid Lysol® - full strength! I coated the entire leaf and stem, and then planted it as I would normally do. The leaf never rotted, the plantlets were fine, and resulting plants never showed any ill effects from this somewhat drastic measure.

These days, I wash my violets in a warm water solution of Woolite® and a few drops of liquid Lysol®. I gently apply this solution to the leaves with my index finger and then wash it off under a warm water stream from the faucet. I would say that I probably wash my plants about every 3 to 4 weeks.

One last thing I want to stress is to make sure that only warm water is used on your plant leaves. Cold water will definitely leave permanent spots on your leaves. One of the other causes of spotted leaves occurs when you put a plant with wet leaves back into the direct sunlight. The small water droplets act as a prism for the sunlight and burn the leaves, leaving permanent spots. Whenever I wash my leaves, I place a piece of paper towel on top of the plant and allow the water droplets to be absorbed. Any residual water I blot with a dry paper towel. Also, to be on the safe side, I try to wash my plants on cloudy days to avoid any possible spotting from water accidentally left on the leaves.

From *Ye Bay Stater*,  
publication of the Bay State AVS

# An Alternative Method For Propagating Bloom Stalks

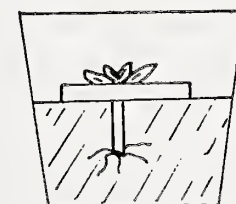
by Kim Thorogood

Propagating by bloom stalk is another way of producing new plants from those that do not bloom true if they are propagated from leaf cuttings. Primarily used for chimeras, the bloom stalk method could also be used for the varieties that often do not bloom true, such as certain plants with fantasy flowers. In the usual method, the flower is removed from the bloom stalk, just above the two little leaves. The bloom stalk is then trimmed to approximately 3cm below the leaves, and this cutting is pushed down into a small pot containing potting mix until the tiny leaves are level with the surface of

the potting mix. This method works quite well and many growers have successfully grown new chimeras that bloom true. However, I always like to try new methods. One Saturday at the Gesneriad meeting, Marge Huntley described a new method of bloom stalk propagation that she had found in one of the overseas magazines (either The Gloxinian or AVM - can't remember which one). In this new method, the bloom stalk is supported in some non-porous, lightweight material and floated in a small container of water. So, I thought I'd give this method a try and it works quite well.

## Here's how you do it:

1. Prepare your bloom stalk in the way I described at the start of this article.
2. Cut up a supermarket meat tray (or something similar) into squares. The size can be as small as 2-3cm across up to something that will still rest on the surface of the water as the level is reduced by evaporation.
3. Poke a hole in the middle of the square using a skewer, which is no bigger than 23mm (you don't want the bloom stalk to fall through the hole because, don't forget, the leaves on chimera bloom stalks are usually really tiny - more's the pity).
4. Find a suitable container (for example, a Chinese food container) and fill it to within about 1 cm from the top.
5. Label the square with the name of the bloom stalk plant.
6. Very gently push the bloom stalk through the square you cut from the meat tray, making sure the leaves are level with the surface of the square.
7. Float the bloom stalk gizmo on the surface of the water in the container.
8. Position the container in a well lit, warm place such as the light stand (if you have one) or anywhere else you have successfully leaves.
9. Wait...
10. After about 6-8 weeks, maybe longer, either small roots will sprout from the bottom of the bloom stalk or a small plantlet will appear between the little leaves of the bloom stalk. The order in which they appear is not important, you'll probably still end up with both. I even had a bloom stalk that sprouted a sucker underneath the water at the end of the bloom stalk (had to be so careful how I said that - imagine if I had said "the blooms stalk sprouted a sucker from its bottom"!!!!)
11. Let the small plantlet develop to at least 5cm across and then gently remove the support by cutting (very carefully) to the hole in the center. You may need to make a few cuts so pieces of the square will drop away.
12. Now you can plant the bloom stalk, complete with sucker, just as you would plant any other sucker!!



Good luck!!

*From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group*

# African Violet Success

by Winston S. Marchant • South Africa

Nothing gives more pleasure than a healthy African violet in full bloom. If you are one of those fortunate people with a violet such as this, there is no need to read further. If you are not as fortunate, the following information may be of help to you.

## LIGHT

African violets like plenty of light but not direct sunlight, as light influences plant growth and encourages blossoms. An hour of early morning sun will not necessarily harm your violet but the same amount of afternoon sun can scorch the leaves.

There is no pleasure owning a beautiful green leafy violet with no blossoms. If your environment is dull, a fluorescent light can solve the problem. Place the fluorescent light eight to twelve inches above the top of your violet, having the lights switched on for ten to twelve hours. Remember that African violets need hours of darkness as well.

## VENTILATION

African violets require indirect air circulation, they do not like drafts or breezes blowing directly on them. Without ventilation, mildew and other fungal diseases may occur. When arranging your violets, the minimum spacing between plants is six inches.

## WATER

Top or bottom watering makes no difference - each has advantages and disadvantages. Tepid water gives better results, as cold water will shock the plant. The amount of water required by your violet is controlled by the environment

A simple check is to feel the soil with your fingers. If the top 10mm. is dry to the touch, it is time to water. Lack of water gives the appearance of lackluster leaf color and droopy appearance. With sufficient water, healthy growth is maintained. Remember, do not let your violet stand in water. Overwatering is the most common cause of African violet failure.

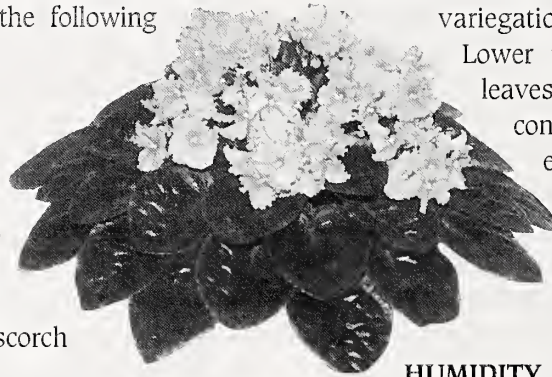
## TEMPERATURE

The ideal temperature range for African violets is sixty to seventy-five degrees F. Sudden changes of temperature are detrimental to your violets. Temperatures constantly above

eighty degrees cause smaller flowers and lack of color definition. Growth is more open, leaves smaller, and petioles (leaf stems) longer. Variegated varieties will have little or no variegation and fantasy markings disappear.

Lower temperatures, below 12 deg C cause leaves to become hard and brittle, centers are congested and leaves curl down around the edges of the pot and under themselves.

Growth slows to an almost stop. Blossoms become sparse and variegated foliage can produce albino leaves.



## HUMIDITY

African violets thrive on a humidity level of sixty percent. The following are suggestions to accomplish this.

**Humidity Trays:** Shallow trays filled with pebbles and with water added: The level of water should not be above the pebbles. Place the pots containing the violets in the tray, standing them on the pebbles to ensure that the base of the pot is not in direct contact with the water.

**Misting:** Spray a fine mist over your violet, but not directly onto the leaves. Good results are obtained when the mist is warm as it lands onto the violet leaves.

## FERTILIZER

A good general purpose fertilizer is more than ample. For variegated violets a fertilizer low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus and potassium is best. Over a long period, there is an accumulation of fertilizer salts in the root ball that can cause petiole rot. To overcome this, run warm fresh water through the root ball and let drain, this will flush the salts out and minimize damage to the plant. Flushing (leaching) can be done every three months. Signs of excess fertilizer are small tight leaves in the center of your plant, hairs on the center leaves stand upright, and the center looks grey in color.

If your violet is looking sick DO NOT double the fertilizer as this can cause more harm than good.

One last piece of advice. If you are comfortable in an environment, your African violet will also be comfortable.

In other words, treat it as if it were human!

*From the Newsletter of the  
Usambara Violet Association of South Africa*

# LABELING TIP

The thin white or multi-colored plastic tags used for labeling our plants have one drawback to them, they stick up and get in the way of the leaves. This can be frustrating. Many have turned to using removable paper labels, masking tape, or writing directly on the pots instead. Others cut labels very short to bide them in the soil, making them hard to read, and leading to rotting around in the pot to find a name.

There is another solution: Write the name of the plant toward the rounded end of the tag with any blooming information or dates, as you normally do.

When sticking the label into the pot, slide it down the inside surface of the pot, between the soil and the pot. Next, bend the plastic tag down hard against the edge of the pot,

straight down. You might have to crease it twice to get the bend to stay. When you release the free end, the crease causes the name to lay flat under the leaves. This way the name is always visible when looking at the tops of your plants. Using tags of different colors, slipped in behind the name tag, fanned out a bit, can signify such things as "sell at the spring sale", "keep quarantined" or "time to repot".

You can choose to leave all those short labels hidden in the soil as well. Then you will be sure to never lose or mix up the names of your plants when transplanting.

*From Blossoms, publication of the Seattle AVS*



## Schedule for Show Plant Preparation

### 3 MONTHS BEFORE SHOW

1. Repot show plants. Pot size should be 1/3 the diameter of the plant. If in doubt, use 1/2" smaller rather than 1/2" larger pot.
2. Disbud, strip damaged or deformed leaves. Groom for symmetry. Groom.

### 10 WEEKS BEFORE SHOW

1. Increase light hours - one hour per week until lights are on fifteen hours per day; thirteen hours now.
2. Dust off bulbs or replace.
3. Fertilizer: Switch to a high phosphorus (high middle number) such as 12-36-14, 15-30-15; 5-50-17 for variegates.
4. If plants are not disbudded, disbud completely now.
5. Bathe after final disbudding for show.

### 9 WEEKS BEFORE SHOW

1. Increase light hours to fourteen hours.
2. Use high phosphorus fertilizer.
3. Disbud variegates for the last time. Future buds should be allowed to bloom.

### 8 WEEKS BEFORE SHOW

1. Lights - fifteen hours per day.
2. Bloom booster- 5-50-17

3. Final disbud for doubles. Future buds should be allowed to bloom.
4. Check for suckers.

### 6 WEEKS BEFORE SHOW

1. Lights - continue at fifteen hours per day.
2. Final disbud for singles. Allow future buds to bloom.
3. Check for suckers.

### 1 WEEK BEFORE SHOW

1. Lights - fifteen hours per day.
2. Check for suckers.
3. Check and remove bloom stem stubs.
4. Possible leaf removal.
5. Brush dirty leaves.

### 24 HOURS BEFORE SHOW

1. Check for suckers.
2. Clean any dirty leaves.
3. Possible last minute leaf removal.
4. Check for tooth picks or other leaf trainers.
5. Place in appropriate box for transport

*From The Bloomin' Violet,*  
publication of the Cedar Valley AVC



# Thinking Small



## Pat Richards

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Miniature and semiminiature African violets make excellent show plants for a variety of reasons. They mature and are capable of putting on a mass of blooms quickly, often in four to six months. They are very easy to transport to show, requiring a lot less space and time to pack. Because of their size, they typically show less foliage so there is less to worry about during grooming and transportation. Furthermore, because of their size, it takes a lot less time and effort to groom for show. Given this, what criteria should be used to identify those cultivars most desirable to be grown for show?

Most African violets can become show specimens. All you need is a clean plant showing good culture with a minimum of blooms in a decent pot. If you're vying for Best in Class and other top awards though, the choice of which cultivar to grow becomes critical. Beginning with the premise that the ideal plant has perfectly overlapping rows of leaves placed as if spokes on succeeding smaller wagon wheels, topped by a nosegay of beautifully colored, freshly opened blooms, here is a brief primer on plant selection:

### FOLIAGE FIRST

African violets are grown for their glorious display of brightly colored and often exotic blooms, yet like fine art, have a more meaningful and stunning presentation when well-framed by exceptional foliage.

First of all, a plant which stays in size is easily preferred to a plant which has a tendency to grow large. There is nothing more discouraging and frustrating than a well-grown mini or semi in full bloom which is a scintilla of an inch too large. Descriptions such as "small growing semiminiature" and "stays small" would be indicative of a desirable plant to start out with. As you begin growing the plant under your own conditions, observe if each leaf is staying small (generally under 1/2" in length and width) or if they're showing a tendency to grow larger. Simply, those with smaller leaves

tend to stay more easily in size. They also are easier to get down to size during final grooming if they do grow too large, as it is far easier to remove one or two of twenty small leaves than one or two of twelve large leaves without creating overly large or obvious gaps.

Also observe the length and strength of the petiole (the stem which connects the neck to the leaf blade). A good indicator of a compact grower with good leaf overlap is a petiole which grows relatively short and is strong. Remember, what we're aiming for is a plant with leaves which overlap symmetrically, which do not allow the observer to see the petioles or any of the soil and/or root ball. Plants to beware of are those with petioles which grow long and tend to be rather weak because they tend to grow too large and will not maintain leaf overlap very well. Furthermore, it will be more difficult to control the symmetry of these plants. Please note: at this point, even before your plants have begun to bloom, you can begin to identify and isolate those which deserve a special growing area on your plant stand.

A more esoteric evaluation is variegation. Those with good, strong variegation which holds regardless of climate, temperature, and culture are preferred to those with more unstable variegation. Thus, while beautiful and exotic, Champion variegation (that variegation which is lighter in the center of the plant and is highly temperature sensitive) is less preferred to Tommie-Lou variegation, which seems to hold well. Lilian Jarrett variegation is somewhere between the two, being more consistent with its variegation but with a distinct ability to lose its variegation over time. Again, carefully observing a plant's performance year round under seasonal changes will help you evaluate its worthiness as a show plant.

A final consideration with respect to foliage is plant size. Simply put, there are many more exceptional semiminiature cultivars available than miniature. The more diminutive the plant, the less easy it is to work with. Furthermore, because

of the need for hybridizers to bring certain desirable characteristics into the mini/semi gene pool vis-a-vis African violet standards, there simply are a lot more semiminiatures introduced into cultivation. It is far easier for the hybridizer to err on the side of introducing the plant as a semiminiature than to introduce it as a miniature and receive complaints that the plant grows too large. Blessed be those who can grow/hybridize/and specialize in truly "miniature" African violets!

### **BURSTING WITH BLOOMS**

I can think of many cultivars I have grown over the years which had the most exquisitely beautiful foliage you could ever hope to grow. When it came to show time, however, it would put on barely enough blooms to garner a blue ribbon. If we are to grow the most striking, most perfect show plant, we must select those varieties which can easily display an abundant quantity of blooms, hopefully so abundant that the center is obscured and a nice, smooth "snow-cone" effect is created.

Let's discuss the exact requirements first. From the AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges (hereinafter referred to as the *Judges Manual*), 25 points are awarded for "quantity" of blooms (miniatures must sport at least 6-12 blooms; semiminiatures at least 10-20 blooms, however these figures are dependent on the cultivar itself, as "the number of blossoms varies with the variety", p. 54) Another consideration is size of bloom. Some cultivars have large blooms, and it will take fewer to create the "snow-cone" effect, while others have small blooms necessitating more blooms. Furthermore, those cultivars with better "substance" will hold their blooms better, making it easier to create the desired nosegay effect. By "substance", I mean thick, almost waxy petals which hold more water and have more cells to allow the blossoms to withstand transportation and the rigors of show.

Another factor to consider is the peduncles, or the stem which attaches the flowers to the plant itself. It needs to be strong to hold the flowers upright, particularly if the plant carries lots of blooms per peduncle. It also needs to be of the proper length: long enough to allow the blooms to clear the foliage, but short enough so when in full bloom the peduncle will not flop over. Furthermore, it is highly desirable to have as many blooms per peduncle as possible, as many as 8-10 blooms in the case of minis and semis. When considered with respect to the "minimum" requirements as set forth in the *Judges Manual*, a plant such as this will easily carry enough blooms at show time!

A caveat: some cultivars carry their blooms in "halos" instead of as a "snow-cone" of flowers. Such plants leave the foliage center open, and the blooms appear to lie on the foliage in a halo around the plant. They can be quite beautiful, particularly when this occurs on Champion variegation. They are more difficult to present well as show plants because the blooms are far less likely to fill-in and make a smooth halo. Constant diligence as the peduncles present

themselves above the foliage and very gentle manipulation into place is a necessary, yet seldom reliable, solution.

Again, careful observation of your plant during its growth will allow you to gauge how well it will perform when allowed to come into full bloom, with those meeting all the above criteria being given optimum conditions.

### **CONSIDERING COLOR**

You should grow those cultivars you like, independent of the color of their blooms. With that in mind, there are certain colors that do better for show. First, be very careful of light colors, particularly those with poor substance. White, cream, light pink, etc., will show bruising very quickly. Second, when growing fantasies for show, understand they are far less than perfect as well. Very often, they will throw a solid color bloom, and sometimes entire clusters, if not the entire plant, will go solid! Be prepared for such disappointment. Third, some judges have distinct preferences, which they may or may not be aware of. Some prefer good contrast, while others prefer certain combinations such as pink, green and white Tommie-Lou variegation with pink flowers. Some dislike green flowers, while others prefer ruffled edges. Bear in mind, this is completely out of your control and is purely human nature. What you can control, however, is the variety of cultivars you grow; making sure there is a representation of several different bloom color/type and foliage combinations in your collection.

An additional factor for consideration is almost a dirty word in the African violet vocabulary: "thrips". These "unmentionables" flourish in our collections, preferring blues and purples to other colors. Furthermore, evidence of thrips and their damage show up better on single blossoms. If thrip control is not an area of concern for you, you may want to limit the number of blues/purples/dark shades and try to grow more doubles and heavy semidoubles.

### **THE LIST**

Keeping in mind all of the above, here is a list of tried and true favorites for show. Without fail, I will fail to acknowledge some favorites, but overall, this should be a fairly accurate listing of several which are very reliable. They are listed by size, then by color from light shades to dark, and then by foliage type. Included are the name, hybridizer, basic blossom color, and foliage type.

**Miniatures:** 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet' (R. Wilson) pink, green, 'Rob's Twinkle Pink' (Robinson) pink, green, 'Ness' Angel Babe' (Ness) pink, green, 'Rob's Rinky Dink' (Robinson), burgundy-red, green, 'Rob's Twinkle Blue' (Robinson) blue, green, 'Dean's Ivory Lace' (Hobbs), white, variegated, 'Texas Space Dust' (Pittman) pink, variegated, and 'Petite Jewel' (Pittman) lavender-blue/white edge, variegated.

**Semiminiatures:** 'Ness' Sno Fun' (Ness) white, green, 'Little Pro' (Pittman) pink, green, 'Irish Flirt' (Sorano) white/green, green, 'Cool Blue' (Pittman) light blue, green, 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy' (Robinson) purple, green, 'Ness'

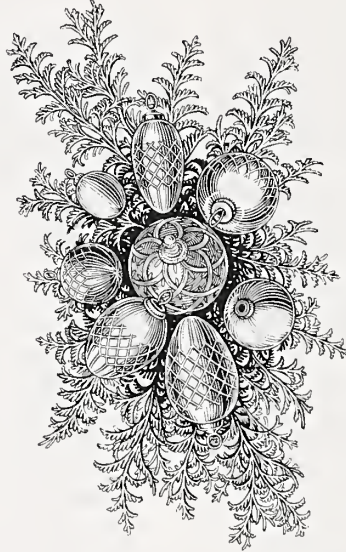
Crinkle blue' (Ness) dark purple/white edge, green, 'Precious Pink' (Pittman) pink, variegated, 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' (Robinson) pink, variegated, and 'Bogeyman' (Scott) dark purple-blue, variegated.

#### SHORT SELECTION SUMMARY

The ideal plant to grow for show will have symmetrical foliage with small leaves and strong petioles. It will bear

abundant quantities of blooms on strong peduncles. The blooms will be of good substance. When we find cultivars which match these criteria, we inevitably will be rewarded with many months, if not years, of enjoyable growing experiences.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and may many blessings come your way in the coming New Year!



## EXPERIENCED, BUT STILL LEARNING

by Elizabeth (Libby) S. Behnke

The fact that I have been growing and enjoying African violets for many years does not mean I know it all or always use what I have learned. One could easily assume that almost forty years of having the plants in my home would mean I'd done most things right. That is not necessarily so. Like so many other people, I first enjoyed the two African violet plants my mother grew, apparently with no effort, near a window. But I chose to only grow green vining plants while in college and nursing in the early 1950's. They seemed to survive on air and water. Meanwhile, my mother's plants continued to thrive, and my interest turned from the vining plants to the plants with the lovely blossoms.

One evening in 1960, while visiting friends, I was amazed to see eleven gorgeous, blooming African violets, and all with different blossoms! Who knew there were so many different kinds?

Not too long after the visit, the friends were transferred out of state, and I was gifted with the African violets. They were in clay pots, and I was told to stand them in a few inches of water in the sink, once a week, and "listen to them sing" as the pots and plants took up the water. All was well and good for a while, but they were soon dry and dead!

In 1963, my husband gave me a lovely violet, 'My Fair Lady', when our third son was born. This plant had girl leaves, with lovely, delicate pink flowers. I certainly wanted to keep this one alive. Later that year, we visited my

husband's parents out of state. And when we arrived, my mother-in-law's kitchen window was a showcase of blooming African violets. While there, my father-in-law took me to the home of a lady in town where he purchased my mother-in-law's plants. She was friendly and generous with advice. My big surprise was her suggestion to, "take them to the sink, give them a warm shower, and after they dry, put them back in the light to bloom." She would "lift" her flower pot to see if it was heavy or light, to determine if the violet needed water. From this visit in 1963, I still have 'Double Black Cherry'. My father-in-law made his own potting mix from an *Organic Gardening* recipe, and he shared some of his mix, plus a copy of the 1962 recipe, which I still use.

Reading the local newspaper late one night, I read a small announcement of a group of people who were holding a meeting to discuss African violets and forming a local club. I was so excited. This happened to be the last meeting where they would accept membership to be a charter member of the Delaware AVS. I joined, and I have made so many new friends, gaining a wealth of information from more experienced growers. Invited speakers, local and near-by shows, national conventions, and of course our AVM have been a wealth of information.

I currently grow over 150 African violets and also many other Gesneriads. I am experienced, but still learning!



# HOW TO GROW A VIOLET...CLUB

by Pat Hancock • West Chester, OH

In this time when many people seem to be too busy to enjoy hobbies. How in the world do you interest new members in an African violet club?

Clubs all over the country seem to be losing members as people get older, and young people seem to be too busy to get involved. Let's face it - these are really busy times, but we all need to have time to relax, and we all need to "stop and smell the roses."

African violets are still the best-loved houseplant in America, but the violets most often seen by the general public are the ones found in super markets or nurseries. Most violet lovers in the general public have never seen the kind of violets club members grow unless they have happened to attend an AVSA sponsored violet show. They are usually struck with awe and amazement when they see the large violets exhibited by a club.

I belong to the African Violet Society of Dayton, (Ohio) and we are a "Growing" African Violet club. In just a few short years, our club has grown from a nucleus of five "violet-loving ladies" to thirty-six plus active members. We also have visitors at almost every meeting since our meetings are open to the public.

The formula is simple - **We are not a competitive club, we are a HELPING club.**

At a recent meeting, I asked members to jot down on a small piece of paper some of the things that keep them coming each month. The following are a few of the comments that they wrote down.

- Friendly Members; Advice cheerfully given. Members aren't just gardeners, they are interested in YOU. Great source for supplies, plants, etc,etc.
- You learn something new about violets at every meeting.
- Club generosity always pleases new members - the Welcome Basket gives new members a great start. We can get new plants in the fifty cent raffle each month.
- Friendships flourish as well as our plants. We are a team and we help each other.

- Non-competitive club - friendly atmosphere - willing to share all knowledge. I love the mentor program.
- Raffle, Welcome Basket for new members, mentoring for new members by experienced growers, Christmas Party, Picnic in the summer, Educational programs, Informative Newsletter each month.

These are just a few of the comments that I received, and I think they reveal better than I could say the reasons behind the success of our club.

We do not have rules that exclude anyone from anything. We welcome new members with open arms and help them in every way possible to grow beautiful violets that they will be very proud of. We try always to ENCOURAGE, never to discourage. New members have all of the club benefits the minute they join, including entering plants in our next show if they so desire. We de-emphasize competitiveness and emphasize HELPFULNESS.

I believe the founders of AVSA had some of these same ideas in mind when they stated the "purpose" and "value" of an AVSA African Violet Show. The purpose is to challenge and encourage members to grow better plants and to stimulate the general public to cultivate the hobby. The value of a violet show is to educate club members and the public in propagation, general culture, and the decorative uses of African violets.

These goals can only be accomplished in a friendly, helpful atmosphere where the attitude of "I can grow violets better than you" is NEVER found.

The real KEY to growing an African Violet Club is found in its members' willingness to share their knowledge and friendship. There are plenty of "violet-lovers" out there buying violets in the grocery store. We just need to show them that we have a club that is willing to help them grow them better.

In case you are wondering what our Welcome Basket contains: six to ten fresh cut or rooted leaves, one gallon of our club soil, several small starter plants, a permanent name badge, and a copy of our yearbook.

## In Memory



### CLYO FOWLER

The Memphis AVS lost a longtime friend and member, Mrs. Clyo Fowler. She was also a member of the Dixie AVS, the former Bluff City AVC, in which she held the office of President more than once. Clyo was also President of the Memphis AVS. An asset to her clubs, she is missed by all.



### FRANCES B. MADISON

Frances Madison of Richmond, VA passed away in September, 2001. A twenty year member of the Richmond AVS, Frances eagerly shared leaves of her favorite violets. Each Christmas, Frances and her husband, Emmett, decorated the society's table with lovely linens and hand-made placemats. Frances will be greatly missed.

# Question Box



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While I was racking my brain for some new and exciting slant on African violets and their culture this past week, I received an e-mail about the fact that vermiculite could be a source of asbestos. It went on to say it was being withdrawn from sale and relating the dangers involved in its use. Two nights later, there was an in-depth look at a town in Montana where the citizens were being killed as a result of mining and using the vermiculite in farming, but the worst of all was the use of vermiculite as a topping for the track on the athletic field at the high school. The story even made the front page of the Los Angeles Times the same morning. The reason I found this all so strange was eleven years ago our source of vermiculite (and Perlite) informed their regular customers there would be no more vermiculite, as it was against the law to mine this substance, due to the dangers it presented during mining, which created large volumes of dust particles which could cause severe damage to the lungs. Eleven years is a long time and since the TV report stated the company doing the mining ceased operations at that time, why is it only now being reported?

Perhaps those of us that tried to find another source for vermiculite or a substitute to use in our mixes were lucky. We had been told it was outlawed - this isn't the case - but it was a wake-up call to all of us using this product to take great care with all the dust producing products. (i.e. Perlite, sphagnum peat, sphagnum, etc.) If you use a mix you make at home or in your club, whether or not it contains vermiculite, it contains dust from several other products. Be sure you are wearing a face mask, and if you are especially sensitive to dust, wear some kind of protection when you are potting plants as well.

Along this same line, (risks from products that are coming in contact with our bodies) I receive many questions about incorporating an insecticide into the mix to control all manner of insects. The big problem here is you often fail to wear the gloves needed for use with a soil containing insecticide. When you only need a little soil for a "quick fix" of a plant where leaves have been removed, getting on the gloves

to protect you against the insecticide just doesn't enter your mind until after the fact. Granted, you may not absorb the substance by just being in contact with it, (I would not want to stake my life on this assumption) but what if you have a small cut or even a fair sized one, what happens in that case? The problem with many poisons is they are cumulative and don't show any symptoms until much, much, later. It would be a total shame for the wonderful hobby of African violets to be the source of an illness. There is also the matter of adding the insecticide, which should be done with great care, and may need breathing gear to protect against inhaling a toxic amount. While you need many exposures to dust for the real damage to be done, with a poison only a few times may be too many.

Now we come to the problem of disposal of soil which contains insecticide, where and how? If it sounds like I'm only willing to use insecticides for the most dire problem, it's true. There have been far too many accidents and gross mistakes in their use for me to live comfortably with indiscriminate use of any insecticide. Yes, I firmly believe in organically grown food, provided it's truly free of insecticides. I use marigolds in my vegetable garden and it repels many of the insects and also clears that bit of soil of root nematodes, an insecticide which is cheap and safe. Insecticide soaps or just plain soap, with isolating the plants seem to be the least dangerous route. Do take into consideration the risk of insecticides on a plant within your home, where you breathe, sleep, and eat.

**QUESTION:** *Since I have learned there is a risk of asbestos contamination in vermiculite I need another product to use in my mix. My current mix is - one part vermiculite, one part perlite, and one part peat moss. Any suggestions?*

**ANSWER:** There are several ways you could modify your current mix. One is to increase the amount of peat and use the same amount of perlite as before. You need to do some experimenting with the peat available to you (I find they are quite different these days) and see how much peat

and perlite makes a good blend for your plants. I know this mixture is being used by some commercial growers; however, it may require more careful watering as most of the growers are on a drip system. Try this new mix on one or two plants and compare your results by using your old mix with a similar plant - perhaps, using two starter plants, taken from the same mother leaf. Compare the two plants as to growth and general health and you'll have a better idea of how this mix works in your conditions. I'd also add a handful or so of charcoal since vermiculite is a soil conditioner and the charcoal will sweeten the new mixture. Another idea would be to check around the nurseries and find a ready made mix that sounds good and doesn't have vermiculite, then add more perlite and peat. I personally add sphagnum peat which I cut fine with scissors, a time consuming task which is also not free of dust. I put the sphagnum in a large plastic sack and cut it up inside the sack. There is also a product made of coconut husks that is quite popular and I've heard people rave about their results. Check in your local area, and if it's not available, it may be possible to get some by mail order as I've seen it advertised in a number of magazines.

**QUESTION:** *The middle leaves of one of my plants has tiny light-colored dots all over them. Does this sound familiar to you? Otherwise, the plant looks healthy.*

**ANSWER:** As with all questions about how a plant looks, I can't see it, so I must guess as to what may be the problem. You don't say if this is a variegated plant, but I'm assuming that it is, because this is where I've seen this phenomena. If you have a very light, especially cream to white variegated plant, you need to be especially careful in handling it during repotting. For some reason, they are sensitive to touching at this time and I've known people that say they wear surgical gloves when repotting these plants. I try to have very clean hands (freshly washed) and touch the center leaves as little as possible which is quite easy if you are aware this poses a problem. Then, as soon as the plant has been repotted, I put it into a box and close out all light for 24 to 48 hours. Some plants reward you for the extra work, but others end up getting the spots anyway. This may be a reason for eliminating them from the collection. It's well worth the extra care given during repotting, as the reason these spots are such a nuisance on large specimens is the length of time it takes to get all the leaves grown out to where they can be removed before your show date which is very important. A marred leaf is a point deduction when judged.

**QUESTION:** *How do you know when to repot? Do you loosen the roots and remove old potting medium or is it best to disturb them as little as possible?*

**ANSWER:** There are so many reasons to repot, I'm going to touch on just a few. Personally, I'm getting ready to acquire a whole new collection (Due to two closely occurring surger-

ies on my left shoulder I lost nearly everything. One-armed people don't grow violets as well as those that have two.) When I get a new plant I have a whole routine I go through. Remove all existing soil, give them a bath in warm soapy water for 15 minutes, and rinse. Then I completely immerse the plant in warm SUPERthrive water for 15 minutes. I use a very large mixing bowl which makes getting all the roots and foliage under the solutions. Since I have a limited area for isolating, for protection against most pests, I use this treatment for all new plants. For me, this system has worked quite well.

Those of you that are planning to show will want to allow adequate time for development of balanced, symmetrical foliage in vigorous growth. For standards you need six to eight months and for the minis and semiminis, four or five or perhaps more depending on the variety.

Always repot any plant which has developed a neck. If you keep up with all your plants that fit this category, you will have a collection that is in excellent shape.

As to soil removal, I take off a large amount when repotting as I want to re-new the soil. Old soil has fertilizer and deposits from the water which you need to be rid of for the health of your plant. If I'm potting on a starter plant, I use the mold system, (this is where you use the same sized pot as the plant is in) to make a mold in the fresh soil of the new pot. When the mold pot is removed, the plant can be dropped into the depression without disturbing roots or soil.

**QUESTION:** *What are the safe temperature ranges in which African violets can thrive?*

**ANSWER:** Ideal temperatures for African violets would be 65 degrees to 75 degrees. However, there are many variables, especially for those of us that live in hot, dry areas. First, you need to consider how much humidity you have and whether there is adequate air circulation. It's possible to offer too much additional moisture with the problem of mildew becoming very serious. The best possible remedy for mildew is never to allow it a start. With spores (when ripe the spores explode to carry their "progeny" as far as possible) the means of contagion, you need to avoid the problem if at all possible. While it isn't perfect, a range from 65 degrees to 80 degrees can produce excellent plants with a good bouquet of flowers. This is a situation where you do not want the very high humidity and high temperature at the same time. If possible, try to increase the air circulation at such times. The other problem comes from a very cool night time temperature and high daytime readings. Guarding against this situation is much easier if the house is heated so you can keep the low at 70 degrees overnight to compensate for the soaring daytime temperatures. High daytime temperatures and lows during the night are a sure cause of mildew for me, especially in the shade garden where I grow many of my gesneriads.

**Name of columnist replying is in bold print**

# “And the winners are ...”



**Mary Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**AVC OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Georgia Lover, Tiger, The King, **Florence Murphy**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Windy Day, Harbor Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Moonsilk, Ness' Mini Sota; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Mini Sota; Best Miniature: Baby Jay; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #257; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Susan Arnao**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Foxwood Trail, **Sandy Skalski**. Best Standard: Angel Frost, **Dot Taylor**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Blue Mars', **Janet Evans**.

**BALTIMORE AVC, MD – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bob Serbin, Red Robe, Pueblo; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Marie Burns**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Ruby, Optimara Little Opal, Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby, **JoAnne Baker-Pruner**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Shooting Star; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'New York', **Rodney Barnett**. Best Semiminiature:

Precious Pink, **Shirley Huffman**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Gary Gordon**.

**BAY STATE AVS, MA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Midnight Fantasy, Rapid Transit, Pink Party Dress; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Pewter Bells; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rapid Transit; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pewter Bells; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marie Montague**. Best Miniature: Lil Critter; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Suzanne Ress**. Best Trailer: Violet Trail, **Eleanor MacIver**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299, **Anne Marie Flynn**. Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea parryorum*, **Bob Clark**.

**TORONTO AVS, ONT – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Ode to Beauty, Red Robe; Best Standard: International; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Robin Cotton**. Best in Show/Best Miniature: Aca's Pink Pet; Best Trailer: Scuba Diver; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Cherry Chips'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**. Design Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Elston**.

## CORRECTIONS:

**Baltimore AVC, MD**  
Horticultural Sweepstakes Winner  
**JoAnne Baker-Pruner**

**Bergen County AVS, NJ**  
Best in Show/Best Standard: Wild Irish Rose;  
Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet,  
**Lucinda Muni**

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

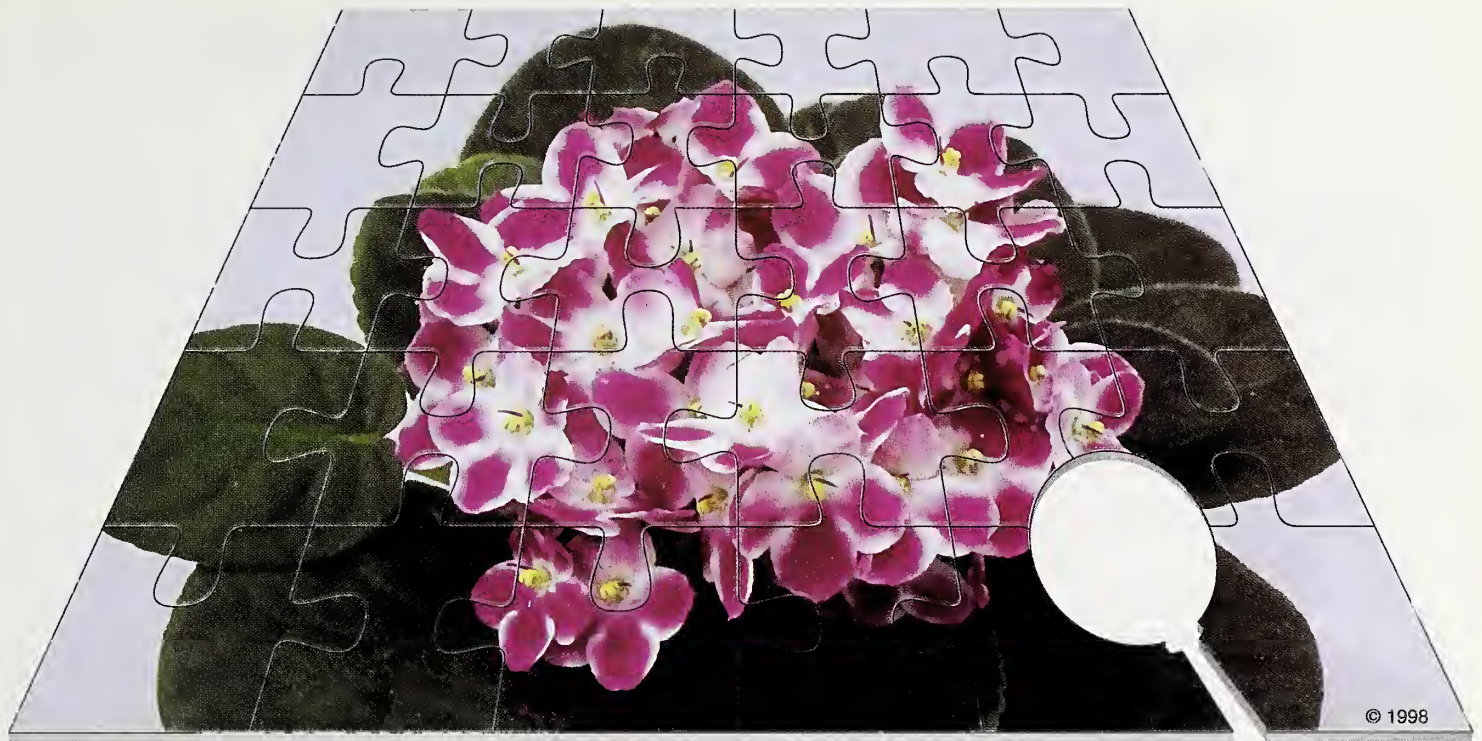
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Wichita AV Study Club, Wichita, KS . . . . . \$15.00  
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Joshua McKinney, Goshen, KY . . . . . \$7.07  
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Milwaukee AVS, Theresa, WI . . . . . 10.00

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# What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

## Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

## From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

## A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

## The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



# How to Choose a Window

by Ralph and Olive Ma Robinson

So often, a customer of ours will ask us, "Which window should I grow this in?"

Our standard answer is, "Provide it with as much bright light as possible, but not hot or intense sunlight".

We want to emphasize that just light isn't enough, but that bright light is needed for most African violets and gesneriads to bloom well. Most gesneriads are tender-leaved plants, though, so very intense or hot sunlight will tend to make the foliage brittle and discolored.

So what window provides these conditions? This all depends upon your particular home and the season. For most homes, a window in an eastern exposure is the best place to start. Here, your plant will receive a bit of morning sunshine, but not direct sunlight in the afternoon when it can be very intense and hot. A western exposure would be the next best choice, the only difference being that the windowsill will have already warmed-up by evening. South-facing windows will generally tend to be too hot and bright for most violets and gesneriads, since it receives the most direct sunlight during the hottest part of the day. North windows, especially in winter at higher latitudes, will generally not provide enough bright light for violets to bloom well.

Still, there are many exceptions to the above very general guidelines. First, season and climate play a very important role. A north-facing window, for example, though too dark in

winter, may provide sufficient light in summer, since days are much longer. Likewise, south-facing windows might be acceptable in winter, when days are shorter and the sun is less intense. Of course, keep in mind that the sunlight entering that south window may be filtered in the summer due to the leaves on the tree just outside it, and will provide even more sunlight in the winter when the tree is bare. This is one of the many complications that one must consider.

Other complications might include whether there is an awning above the window, a porch outside, or even the kind of window itself – the glass might be tinted, double rather than single paned, or just plain dirty. Or perhaps there's a white-sided building just a short distance from that north window, which might provide enough reflected light to successfully grow blooming plants in that otherwise dim location. Further, any window might be acceptable if the grower is willing to make a few adjustments. Providing supplemental (artificial) light for a dark location, or diffusing light in a too-bright one (sheer curtains, for example) are just a couple of possibilities.

Whatever you decide, your plants will let you know if they're happy with your choice. Listen to them.

From *VioletsFun* Photo Journal



## BIG IS BEAUTIFUL!

by Sue Gardner

Many people see the large African violets in shows and displays and want to know how it is done. The following points are a guide to success.

1. Choose a plant that has the genes for big leaves. In catalogues, these are described as "large standards". Leaf size is best indication.
2. Use a good potting mix. It must be porous to provide air spaces for good root development.
3. Repot your plant as soon as the roots grow to the edge of the pot. This may be every 2-3 months if growth is rapid. Use the next size pot. Do not pot from a three inch to a six inch pot in one go, as too much wet soil around the roots could make them rot.
4. Use wick watering, if possible, as a constant supply of water and nutrients is essential.
5. Control the temperature as well as you can. Plants grow best at sixty to seventy-two degrees. In cold conditions, growth is slowed and size is affected. When it is too hot, the plant can lose strength and become leggy.
6. Fertilize well with a high nitrogen fertilizer for good foliage growth. When flowering is required, use a fertilizer with high phosphorus content. Consider foliar feeding as an option.
7. Disbud to achieve large symmetrical foliage growth. When the plant reaches the required size and you want it to flower, stop disbudding.
8. Provide adequate light. This is most important, as it is necessary for good growth and flowering.

So, to grow a large plant you must select the right plant and then provide optimum conditions for growth.

# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

November Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Thu.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	3rd 12:41 am
2 Fri. 4:12 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
3 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
4 Sun. 10:44 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
5 Mon.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
6 Tue.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
7 Wed. 5:54 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
8 Thu.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th 7:21 am
9 Fri. 6:49 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
10 Sat.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
11 Sun. 8:55 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
12 Mon.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
13 Tue. 10:44 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
14 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
15 Thu. 1:51 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st 1:40 am
16 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
17 Sat. 7:40 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
18 Sun.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
19 Mon	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
20 Tue. 4:55 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
21 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
22 Thu. 4:52 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd 6:21 pm
23 Fri.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
24 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
25 Sun. 5:21 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
26 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
27 Tue. 4:06 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
28 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
29 Thu.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
30 Fri. 12:04 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd 5:49 pm

December Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
2 Sun. 5:30 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
3 Mon.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
4 Tue. 9:15 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
5 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
6 Thu 12:11 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
7 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th 2:52 pm
8 Sat. 2:57 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
9 Sun.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruit	4th
10 Mon. 6:09 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
11 Tue.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
12 Wed. 10:30 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
13 Thu.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
14 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st 5:47 pm
15 Sat. 4:48 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
16 Sun.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruit	1st
17 Mon. 1:43 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
18 Tue.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
19 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
20 Thu. 1:09 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
21 Fri	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
22 Sat. 1:45 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd 3:56 pm
23 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
24 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
25 Tue. 1:12 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
26 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruit	2nd
27 Thu. 9:59 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
28 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
29 Sat. 2:40 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
30 Sun.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd 5:40 am
31 Mon. 5:09 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 2001 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 1-56718-953-9

# Showcase

## *B-Man's Moncibello*

*From Best AVSA Collection*

*2001 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Tony Hulleman*

*Hybridized by: B. Curcuruto*

*Large*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Optimara Leonardo Davinci*

*Exhibited by: B. J. Ohme*

*Hybridized by: Holtkamp*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*





Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Chanticleer*

*Best Vintage Violet*

*3rd Best African Violet*

*2001 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Tony Hulleman*

*Hybridized by: Eyedom*

*Standard*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Sister Sylvia*

*Exhibited & Hybridized by:*

*Fay Wagman*

*Semiminiature*

*Chimera*

# Fertilizer

by Sue Hodges

As our plants mostly grow in soilless potting mix, we must feed them to provide the nutrients that they need. There are sixteen elements which plants need for growth. Carbon dioxide is obtained from the air, nutrients are obtained from the soil, and the roots also supply oxygen.

The plants need the essential nutrient elements in varying amounts. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the major elements and are needed in relatively large amounts while the secondary nutrients (calcium, magnesium, and sulphur) are needed in only moderate amounts. The trace elements, which are iron, boron, zinc, chlorine, copper, manganese, and molybdenum, are needed in very small amounts. All of the elements are necessary for healthy plant growth, but an over-abundance of an element can cause problems. Hence, you will hear people say that you need a balanced fertilizer which contains the correct proportions of these elements for your plants.

While saying you need a "balanced" fertilizer, you will be aware that fertilizers differ in formula and are often intended for a specific purpose. Not every fertilizer will produce the same results in your plant. Some are intended to produce lush, green foliage; others promote flowers and fruit so it pays to check the contents of the fertilizer you are using!

Every fertilizer has an analysis of its contents printed on the label so it is quite easy to get some idea of what you are feeding to your plants. The analysis will show the percentages of each element that is present in that particular fertilizer. Sometimes you will see this analysis written as the N.P.K. ratio with N standing for nitrogen, P for phosphorus and K for potassium.

Nitrogen is necessary for plants to produce chlorophyll which gives leaves their green coloring. It is necessary for the plant to produce compounds such as proteins and amino acids that are essential to keep the plant growing. If a plant lacks nitrogen, the older leaves will yellow. If the deficiency persists, the leaves may become smaller with flowers also becoming smaller and less intense in color. Too much nitrogen will give rapid, succulent growth, which can make the plant susceptible to pests and disease. This rapid growth often causes a lack of bloom.

Phosphorus is needed in every plant cell. It is especially important for root development as well as for flowering and seed development. Deficiencies can be hard to diagnose, but can present as a lack-luster appearance, sometimes with a purple coloration of the leaves. Do not confuse this with the natural red reverse of many African violet leaves.

Potassium increases your plants' resistance to pests and disease, aids the plant roots in absorbing nutrients, and helps the plant withstand cooler temperatures. A deficiency can show up as scorched leaf margins and a general yellowing of

the lower leaves.

Calcium is the "building blocks" of the plant and, in violets, gives strength to petioles and to the plant in general. It is necessary for cell and root development.



Magnesium plays a regulatory role in the uptake of nutrients from the soil and is essential to the food manufacturing process within the plant.

Plants need sulphur as a component of all the proteins found within the cells. It gives plants a deep green color and encourages root development. Violets will seldom show a sulphur deficiency as it is released into the potting mix as organic matter (peat) is broken down.

The other minor elements are all essential to your plant, but they are needed in only very small amounts, which can be provided by a fertilizer that contains trace elements. Some contain boron, manganese, zinc, copper, molybdenum, and iron as well as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

Checking the label on your fertilizer will give you an idea of how it will affect your plant. A fertilizer with an N.P.K. ratio of 13:23:10 will promote growth as it has a relatively high nitrogen content and it is useful for young violets when you want plant growth rather than flowers. Thrive Indoor, which some growers use, is another which promotes growth with a ratio of 19:3:19.

A bloom booster with a ratio of 6:22:15 is designed to be used sparingly to promote additional bloom. Other bloom boosters contain no nitrogen at all.

A more balanced formula with an N.P.K. of 14:15:11.5 is a general purpose fertilizer which can be used throughout the plant's life to produce healthy, blooming plants.

When using a fertilizer, it is important to remember that more is not always better! Little and often will produce a better plant. Follow the directions on the packet to give the best results. However, if you are using a wick system with a fertilizer that is designed for weekly application, mix the solution at 1/4 strength or you will damage your plants by over fertilizing.

The composition of your potting mix will also have a bearing on your use of fertilizer. African violets and many other gesneriads require a potting mix that is slightly acid. Most growers like to have their mix with a pH of 6.5 - 6.8 as this allows the plant to absorb the nutrients through the roots. When mixes are very acid or very alkaline, nutrients

are locked up in the soil and the plant is unable to take up the elements that it needs from the mix. Usually pH is not a problem when you are using a good quality mix. Kits are available to test your potting mix if you are making your own.

If all this sounds fearfully complicated, don't be too worried! All the fertilizers that are marketed for African violets will grow acceptable plants, it is just that some do

things a little better than others. While a change in fertilizers will probably not produce any radical differences, it is a good idea to use only one or two plants if you are going to experiment. If your plants are growing and flowering well, you do not need to change your routine!

From African Violet News

# The African Violet Internet World

Gary R. Beck • San Francisco, CA  
Garyrbeck@aol.com

A strange but wonderful event has happened in the last several years. Earth has gotten much smaller! With the advent of the personal computer, one is able to communicate within seconds to another person anywhere in the world! This occurrence has brought together people who just a few years ago would have never known each other. People with the same interests can share knowledge and experience and ask questions instantaneously. The Internet is a vast information-sharing system.

This remarkable event has not gone unnoticed by lovers of the African violet and other Gesneriads. Rather quickly, they have banded together as groups to share communally. The Internet has enabled growers, showers, judges, and teachers to communicate amongst themselves no matter where they call home, for now they all have a common home!

One of the most pleasing results of this shrinking of the globe is that the interest in African violets now knows no boundaries, no countries, and can be spread and supported readily. New growers can find valuable information on the

basic culture of the plants by joining an Internet group whose specialty is our favorite house plant. No longer must a person who sees an interesting African violet for sale need take it home and wonder how to water it, keep it alive, enjoy its reblooming. Now, all it takes is subscribing to a web-based group and ask the members what care is recommended. Within minutes, this new hobbyist has access to the experience of growers from all over the world.

Through the Internet, not only will this person gain needed information as to growing mix, fertilizers, watering, lights, pests, hybrids, but receive access to fellow hobbyists, possibly in their locality, and find the availability of a nearby society to join and share in. The sources for plants (plantlets, leaves, and seeds) are openly laid before them in availability of ordering from commercials and swapping with fellow hobbyists. The Cyber world of the Internet has assisted AVSA in its stated purpose to spread the interest in the African violet! Our online group, African Violets International (AVI), is working daily to this effort. Come join us!

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9. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) African Violet Society of America Inc. 2375 North St. Beaumont, TX 77702-1722 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Ruth Ramsey 2375 North St. Beaumont, TX 77702-1722 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Not Applicable			c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3) and (4))		(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution	110	190
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)			d. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15d)		(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	146	92
Full Name The African Violet Society of America, Inc.			e. Free Distribution (Sum of 15d (1) and (2))		(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541	7978	7776
Complete Mailing Address 2375 North St. Beaumont, TX 77702-1722			f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)		(3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	20	20
Full Name Complete Mailing Address			h. Copies not Distributed		Total (Sum of 15g and h)	10	5
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PS Form 3526, October 1999 (See Instructions on Reverse)			16. Publication of Statement of Ownership (B) Publication required. Will be printed in the Nov./Dec. 2001 issue of this publication <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required		100	100	
			17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Jenny Daugrean Administrative Coordinator Date: 9-25-2001		I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).		
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			3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.				
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			5. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.				
			6. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.				
			7. Item 17 must be signed.				
			Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.				
			PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)				

# Showcase

## *Aca's Red Ember*

*Exhibited by: Tony Hulleman*

*From Best AVSA Collection*

*2001 AVSA National Show*

*Hybridized by: J. Brownlie*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Streptocarpus* *'Sugar Blue'*

*Exhibited by: David Thompson*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

# African Violet



*Saintpaulia grotei*

## The 2001 Supplement to the African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars

This is the 2001 supplement to the *African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars* (AVML, formerly MVL). This supplement includes all cultivars appearing in the 2001 Registration Reports, descriptions of non-registered cultivars provided by hybridizers during that same period, and changes to previous listings. The AVML and its supplements provide a timely, concise and accurate tool for classifying, judging and exhibiting African violets.

The "universal" IBM and MAC AVML database, and the "First Class" version for Windows only, will be available on a CD-ROM disk for your computer. Contact the Beaumont office for the current release number, its contents, price, and availability.

Send corrections and/or hybridizer's descriptions of cultivars to Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgecrest Drive, Colfax, CA 95713, or e-mail to [lombard@oro.net](mailto:lombard@oro.net).

# The 2001 Supplement to the African Violet Master List

Compiled by Lynn Lombard, African Violet Master List Chairman

Supplement to African Violet Magazine    Volume 54 No. 6    November/December 2001

† designates change

Aca's Eloise	.....	(J. Brownlie) Semidouble white pansy/red eye, edge. Medium green. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Aca's Marie	.....	(J. Brownlie) Semidouble pink pansy/green-white edge. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and white. <b>Small standard</b>
Aca's Snow Queen	.....	(J. Brownlie) Double white ruffled star. Medium green. <b>Small standard</b>
Aftershock	.....	(P. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark coral-red fluted star. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, ivory and rose/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Auburn Trail	.....	(B. Elkin) Semidouble lavender/darker fantasy. Dark green, pointed. <b>Miniature trailer</b>
Aunt Georgia	..... (8922) 01/08/2001	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble rose two-tone pansy. Dark green, plain/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Aunt Irene	..... (8923) 01/08/2001	(K. Stork) Semidouble-double pink pansy. Medium green, plain/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Balboa Blaze	.....	(G. McCanne) Semidouble dark rose frilled. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and white. <b>Standard</b>
Balboa Ecstasy	.....	(G. McCanne) Double light rose/darker eye, fuchsia streaks. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and white. <b>Standard</b>
Balboa Peach	.....	(G. McCanne) Semidouble peach. <b>Variegated</b> light green and white. <b>Standard</b>
Balboa Puffer	.....	(G. McCanne) Double dark rose/light pink and white streaks. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and white. <b>Standard</b>
Balboa Sunrise	.....	(G. McCanne) Semidouble pink. <b>Variegated</b> light green and white. <b>Standard</b>
Balboa Sunset	.....	(G. McCanne) Semidouble pink two-tone. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and white. <b>Standard</b>
Balboa Treasure	.....	(G. McCanne) Single-semidouble salmon pink star/darker eye. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, white and pink. <b>Standard</b>
Benediction	..... (8924) 01/08/2001	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble lavender two-tone large frilled star. Medium green, pointed, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
Bewitched	..... (9007) 03/13/2001	(G. Durand) Single-semidouble chimera white large star/violet fantasy stripe. Dark green, plain, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Blueberry Candy	..... (9026) 04/07/2001	(F. Wagman) Semidouble-double white star/blue eye. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and white, ovate. <b>Miniature</b>
Blueberry Splash	.....	(P. Sorano) Single-semidouble purple-red large star/blue fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and ivory. <b>Standard</b>
Buckeye Befuddled	..... (9054) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double light lavender-pink large ruffled pansy/dark purple and raspberry fantasy, variable raspberry edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Bejeweled	.....	(P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender-pink pansy/raspberry and purple fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, cream and pink. <b>Standard</b>

<b>Buckeye Bespattered</b> . . . . .	(9055) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender-pink star/purple fantasy, variable striping. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and cream, plain, glossy. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Boysenberry</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble purple large star. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and cream. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Camouflage</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender-pink large pansy/purple and raspberry fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Can Can</b> . . . . .	(9056) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble medium purple two-tone ruffled pansy/darker top petals, edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, plain, pointed, scalloped/red back. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Candy Kisses</b> . . . . .	(9057) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double bright pink ruffled star. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy, serrated/red back. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Candy Sprinkles</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble fuchsia pansy/purple fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Buckeye Candy Striper</b> . . . . .	(9058) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble light red ruffled star/darker fantasy, rays. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy/red back. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Careless Whisper</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double red-purple/dark purple fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, cream and pink. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Carioca</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender-purple sticktite star/purple fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, cream and pink. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Buckeye Catching Stars</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender and pink variable ruffled star/purple and raspberry fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Celebration</b> . . . . .	(8879) 08/10/2000	(P. Hancock) Semidouble light purple star/dark purple and cranberry fantasy, cranberry ruffled edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Charmer</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble bright pink ruffled star. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, serrated. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Cherry Freckles</b> . . . . .	(8880) 08/10/2000	(P. Hancock) Semidouble pink pansy/cranberry-wine fantasy, cranberry ruffled edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Buckeye Cherry Sundae</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double cherry-red/darker overlay. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, cream and pink. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Chitchat</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender-purple ruffled pansy/variable purple fantasy; purple edge. <b>Variegated</b> black-green, pink and cream, pointed, ruffled. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Choral Bells</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double mauve and pink frilled. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, cream and pink, serrated. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Cinema Star</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble light purple sticktite ruffled star/darker fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, cream and pink. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Buckeye Cloud Nine</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double pale pink/darker edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and cream. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Colossal</b> . . . . .	(9059) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double peach-pink ruffled star/red sparkle edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy, serrated/red back. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Concerto</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble pink pansy/sparkle overlay; raspberry edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Buckeye Confetti</b> . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender-pink pansy/raspberry and purple fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> medium green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Constellation</b> . . . . .	(8881) 08/10/2000	(P. Hancock) Semidouble light purple ruffled star/dark purple and raspberry fantasy, thin raspberry edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. <b>Large</b>
† <b>Buckeye Cornucopia</b> . . . . .	(8882) 08/10/2000	(P. Hancock) Semidouble peach-pink star/darker peach center, variable raspberry ruffled edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Country Gal</b> . . . . .	(8883) 08/10/2000	(P. Hancock) Semidouble light fuchsia large ruffled pansy/variable lavender-purple fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, glossy, serrated/red back. <b>Large</b>
<b>Buckeye Crackerjack</b> . . . . .	(9060) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double light purple large ruffled star/darker fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, glossy, serrated. <b>Large</b>

Buckeye Damask Rose . . . . .	(9061) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble rose two-tone large ruffled star/lighter edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, glossy, scalloped/red baek. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Dance Time . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble bright pink large star. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Dancin' Eyes . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble white star/variable dark pink eye, rays. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Dancin' Clouds . . . . .	(9062) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double white ruffled star/variable pink eye, rays. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and cream, plain, glossy. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Daydreamer . . . . .	(9063) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble mauve-pink large star. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy/red back. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Dedication . . . . .	(9064) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble white ruffled star/variable pink eye, rays, edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green and cream, plain, glossy. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Delicate Lace . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble light pink. <b>Variiegated</b> medium-dark green, pink and cream. <b>Standard</b>
Buckeye Designer Pearls . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble white star. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and cream. <b>Standard</b>
Buckeye Diamond Dust . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble white large ruffled star/variable pink overlay. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Diamonds Are . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble white large frilled star/variable pink eye. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and cream, plain. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Dimestore Novel . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble white large star/variable pink eye, rays. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Disguised Innocence . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble pale peach ruffled star. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, cream and pink. <b>Standard</b>
Buckeye Dogwood Spring . . . . .	(8884) 08/10/2000	(P. Hancock) Semidouble pink two-tone large ruffled star, fluted tips. <b>Variiegated</b> black-green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, serrated/red baek. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Dresden China . . . . .	(8885) 08/10/2000	(P. Hancock) Semidouble pale peach-pink ruffled star. <b>Variiegated</b> black-green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, serrated/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Buckeye Dress Parade . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble white large star/variable pink eye. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Drifted Snow . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble white large star/variable pink eye, top petals. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Edged Night . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double dark wine-purple ruffled pansy/darker edge. <b>Variiegated</b> black-green, pink and cream. <b>Standard</b>
Buckeye Elderberry Wine . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble wine pansy/variable lighter and darker fantasy. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Standard</b>
Buckeye Elusive Stars . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble light mauve ruffled star/darker eye; raspberry fantasy, edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Enchantment . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble mauve pansy/purple and raspberry markings. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, serrated. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Encore . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double vivid red/darker fantasy, edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Endless Love . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble pale mauve-pink pansy/darker shading, edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Standard</b>
Buckeye Enough Pizzazz . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender-pink pansy/purple fantasy. <b>Variiegated</b> blaek-green, pink and cream, glossy. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Especially Mine . . . . .	(9065) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble pink-lavender ruffled pansy/raspberry and purple fantasy, raspberry-purple edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, glossy, serrated/red back. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Eureka . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble mauve ruffled star/purple streaks. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Standard</b>
Buckeye Ever Victorian . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble light mauve-pink pansy/darker fantasy, edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Everlasting . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double coral-pink. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, plain. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Evermore Freckles . . . . .		(P. Hancock) Semidouble mauve-pink frilled pansy/purple and raspberry fantasy. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>



Buckeye Everything's Rosy	.....	(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double pink. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Extravaganza	.....	(P. Hancock) Semidouble light raspberry ruffled star/darker markings, edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Eyestopper	.....	(P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender and shaded pink variable large pansy/purple and raspberry fantasy, raspberry ruffled edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Fiesta	..... (9066) 06/25/2001	(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double rose-pink ruffled star/variable wide raspberry fantasy edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, glossy, serrated/red back. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Flash Point	.....	(P. Hancock) Semidouble red pansy/variable darker fantasy. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, glossy. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye French Pastry	.....	(P. Hancock) Semidouble-double coral-pink pansy/variable raspberry frilled edge on top petals. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and cream, glossy. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Glad Rags	.....	(P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender-pink ruffled pansy/purple fantasy. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buckeye Icebreaker	.....	(P. Hancock) Semidouble white large star/green-tinged ruffled edge. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and cream. <b>Large</b>
Buffalo Hunt	..... (8925) 01/08/2001	(K. Stork) Semidouble-double red frilled pansy. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
Burnished Fuchsia Lace	..... (9047) 06/13/2001	(G. Gay) Single-semidouble bright fuchsia ruffled pansy. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
Busy Trail	.....	(B. Elkin) Semidouble-double orchid and white. Dark green. <b>Miniature trailer</b>
Candy Stripes	..... (9012) 03/14/2001	(D. Thompson) Single chimera hot pink sticktite ruffled pansy/white stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Carnation Sprinkles	.....	(P. Sorano) Semidouble-double chimera pink large frilled star/white stripe, blue fantasy. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Center Stage	.....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble hot pink pansy. Medium-dark green, glossy. <b>Standard</b>
Chicago Flair	..... (8917) 11/28/2000	(D. Hoover) Semidouble pink ruffled pansy/darker eye, thin white edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green and white, plain. <b>Standard</b>
Chimo	..... (9008) 03/13/2001	(G. Durand) Single-semidouble chimera dark blue ruffled large/white stripe. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated. <b>Large</b>
Chinook Wind	..... (8926) 01/08/2001	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble red-coral pansy. Medium-dark green, glossy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Chippewa	.....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble vivid coral star. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
City Slicker	..... (9067) 07/25/2001	(T. Brekel) Double chimera white ruffled/medium blue stripe. Dark green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Colonel Ron	..... (8918) 11/30/2000	(B. Foster) Semidouble red star. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and white, plain. <b>Standard</b>
David Alan	..... (8932) 01/18/2001	(D. Harrington) Single red sticktite star/white ruffled edge. Medium-dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, hairy. <b>Standard</b>
Dean Stanley	..... (8933) 01/18/2001	(D. Harrington) Single-semidouble medium pink ruffled pansy/variable thin burgundy edge. Medium-dark green, quilted, hairy. <b>Standard</b>
Enchanting Waterfall	.....	(P. Sorano) Single light pink pansy/blue fantasy. Medium green. <b>Standard trailer</b>
Esmerelda	.....	(B. Elkin) Semidouble dusky rose-fuchsia star/darker band, white edge. Medium green. <b>Standard</b>
Fading Embers	.....	(P. Sorano) Single chimera fuchsia-red sticktite pansy/purple stripe, thin white edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green and ivory. <b>Standard</b>
Falling Raindrops	.....	(P. Sorano) Single violet-blue sticktite pansy/light blue inner petal edges. Medium green. <b>Semiminiature trailer</b>
Fashion Lady	..... (9013) 03/14/2001	(D. Thompson) Single pale pink sticktite frilled pansy/darker eye, edge. <b>Variiegated</b> green and white, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Femme Fatale	..... (9014) 03/14/2001	(D. Thompson) Single light pink sticktite star/darker ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Firestorm	..... (9015) 03/14/2001	(D. Thompson) Single red sticktite ruffled pansy. Dark green, heart-shaped, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>

<b>Fuchsia Lace</b> . . . . .	(9048) 06/13/2001	(G. Gay) Single-semidouble dark fuchsia ruffled pansy/darker edge. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Genetic Carmine</b> . . . . .	(8896) 11/24/2000	(J. Smith) Semidouble-double dusky coral-red pansy. <b>Mosaic variegated</b> green, pink and beige, plain/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Genetic Creme</b> . . . . .	(8897) 11/24/2000	(J. Smith) Semidouble-double white to blush pansy. <b>Mosaic variegated</b> green, white and cream, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Genetic Snowflake</b> . . . . .	(8898) 11/24/2000	(J. Smith) Semidouble-double white pansy. <b>Mosaic variegated</b> green, pink and beige, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Glorious Angel</b> . . . . .	(9000) 03/07/2001	(L. Stickney) Double light fuchsia/variable white edge. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Grape Expectations</b> . . . . .		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble dark lavender-purple two-tone large pansy. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Grape Fantasy</b> . . . . .		(J. Swift) Semidouble lavender large star/purple fantasy, thin white frilled edge. Dark green, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Green Dragon</b> . . . . .		(J. Brownlie) Semidouble white and green star. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and white. <b>Semiminiature</b>
<b>His Margie</b> . . . . .	(8930) 01/16/2001	(A. Hummer) Semidouble purple. <b>Variiegated</b> green and pink, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Hot Summer Day</b> . . . . .		(K. Stork) Semidouble-double vivid red-coral/dark red sparkle. Medium green, pointed. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Invicta</b> . . . . .		(B. Elkin) Semidouble dark fuchsia-red star/red band, blush-pink edge. Medium green, glossy. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Jettie</b> . . . . .	(8934) 01/18/2001	(D. Harrington) Double dark blue ruffled pansy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Joe Bob</b> . . . . .		(K. Stork) Semidouble-double white pansy/fuchsia patches. Medium green. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Joyful Janey</b> . . . . .	(8931) 01/16/2001	(A. Hummer) Semidouble purple/thin green edge. <b>Variiegated</b> green and white, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Just Janice</b> . . . . .	(8919) 11/30/2000	(B. Foster) Semidouble pink star/fuchsia fantasy on outer petals, thin green edge. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, pink and white, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Kara's Birthday Surprise</b> . . . . .		(P. Sorano) Single chimera medium lavender-pink sticktite star/lavender stripe, blue fantasy. Medium green, wavy. <b>Standard</b>
† <b>Kev's Freckle Face</b> . . . . .	(8849) 03/25/2000	(K. Degner) Single-semidouble pink ruffled pansy/fuchsia overlay, wide edge. Light green, quilted, scalloped. <b>Large</b>
<b>Kiwi Aristocrat</b> . . . . .	(9030) 05/31/2001	(D. Snell) Semidouble dark blue frilled pansy/red-tinged overlay on edge. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Kiwi Candy Floss</b> . . . . .	(9031) 05/31/2001	(D. Snell) Semidouble chimera white frilled pansy/medium pink stripe. Dark green, plain/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Kiwi Christmas Cheer</b> . . . . .	(9032) 05/31/2001	(D. Snell) Semidouble chimera white pansy/vivid red-wine stripe. Dark green, plain/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Kiwi Mischief</b> . . . . .	(9033) 05/31/2001	(D. Snell) Semidouble chimera bright pink pansy/lavender stripe, purple fantasy. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Kiwi Splendour</b> . . . . .	(9034) 05/31/2001	(D. Snell) Single-semidouble chimera dark blue frilled pansy/white stripe. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Kiwi Velvet Glow</b> . . . . .	(9035) 05/31/2001	(D. Snell) Double dark red frilled pansy/darker eye, edge. Dark green, plain. <b>Large</b>
<b>Lavender Lace</b> . . . . .	(9049) 06/13/2001	(G. Gay) Single-semidouble white ruffled pansy/lavender-blue eye, edge. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and white, plain, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Lil Ballerina</b> . . . . .		(P. Sorano) Single white sticktite bell/lavender-blue patches. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and ivory, heart-shaped. <b>Miniature</b>
<b>Lindsay's Delight</b> . . . . .		(J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble pink star/white edge. Medium green. <b>Semiminiature</b>
<b>Little Cesar</b> . . . . .	(9046) 06/13/2001	(P. Harris) Single orchid pansy. <b>Variiegated</b> green and white, plain, pointed/red back. <b>Miniature trailer</b>
<b>Little Emily</b> . . . . .	(9009) 03/13/2001	(G. Durand) Double bright pink star. Medium green, plain, glossy, ruffled. <b>Miniature</b>
<b>Little Misty Blue</b> . . . . .		(P. Sorano) Single chimera white sticktite pansy/blue stripe, white fantasy. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and ivory. <b>Semiminiature</b>

Lucile Roske		(D. Harrington) Single red-purple sticktite/green ruffled edge. Light green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
Lucille Woolever	(8935) 01/18/2001	(D. Harrington) Semidouble-double pink shaded pansy/variable white edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Lucky Lucas	(9010) 03/13/2001	(G. Durand) Single-semidouble dark blue large ruffled star. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, serrated. <b>Large</b>
Lyon's Lavender Magic		(P. Sorano) Single-semidouble white large frilled star/light purple patches. Medium green. <b>Standard</b>
Lyon's Minnie-HaHa		(P. Sorano) Single dark fuchsia fluted sticktite bell. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and ivory. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Lyon's Party Dress		(P. Sorano) Semidouble dark pink large star/variable light green-white edge. Dark green, plain/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Lyon's Stargazer		(P. Sorano) Single lavender star/white fantasy, thin white edge. Dark green/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Lyon's Sweet Dreams		(P. Sorano) Semidouble light pink fluted star. Medium green. <b>Standard</b>
Ma's Corsage	(9041) 05/31/2001	(O. Robinson) Double pink pansy/light green frilled edge. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and white, quilted, wavy, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
Ma's Debutante	(9042) 05/31/2001	(O. Robinson) Semidouble pink pansy. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and cream, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
Ma's Midland Blue	(9043) 05/31/2001	(O. Robinson) Semidouble medium blue star. <b>Crown variiegated</b> green, white and yellow, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Ma's Midland Fantasy	(9044) 05/31/2001	(O. Robinson) Semidouble pink star/blue fantasy. <b>Crown variiegated</b> green, white and yellow, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Ma's Soiree	(9045) 05/31/2001	(O. Robinson) Semidouble fuchsia-red ruffled pansy. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and white, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
Maas' Arbor Glen		(W. Ott/M. Maas) Double pink. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
Maas' Eva		(W. Ott/M. Maas) Double pink two-tone. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
Maas' Gerry		(W. Ott/M. Maas) Single white star. Light green, plain. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Maas' Maxine		(W. Ott/M. Maas) Double white. Medium green, plain, pointed/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Maas' Victorian Violet		(W. Ott/M. Maas) Single red. Dark green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
Maas' Vincent		(W. Ott/M. Maas) Double pink. Dark green, plain/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Mariah	(8936) 01/18/2001	(D. Harrington) Single-semidouble medium pink pansy/red eye. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Midnight Lace	(9050) 06/13/2001	(G. Gay) Single red-purple sticktite ruffled pansy. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
Mountain Blush		(P. Sorano) Double fuchsia large star. Medium green, ovate. <b>Standard</b>
Mulberry Jazz		(P. Sorano) Double lavender-pink ruffled/dark pink eye, dark blue fantasy, thin white edge. Medium green, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
My Sue	(9021) 03/23/2001	(S. Sanders/R. Brenton) Double dark blue star. Dark green girl foliage. <b>Miniature trailer</b>
Mystic Green		(J. Brownlie) Double blush-white frilled star/variable green edge. Medium green. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Nel's Grand Dame	(8886) 08/12/2000	(N. Ransone) Single light pink sticktite ruffled star/darker center. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and white, spooned, quilted/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Nel's Whirley Bird	(8887) 08/12/2000	(N. Ransone) Single chimera medium purple large ruffled star/white stripe. <b>Variiegated</b> medium green and white, plain, pointed, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
New Lace	(9051) 06/13/2001	(G. Gay) Single dark blue- red sticktite pansy. <b>Variiegated</b> dark green, white and pink, plain. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Newborn	(9011) 03/13/2001	(G. Durand) Single blush white sticktite star. Dark green, plain, serrated/red back. <b>Standard</b>
† Okie Grape Festival	(8863) 04/29/2000	(J. Cochran) Single lavender two-tone sticktite frilled pansy/darker tips. Medium green, plain, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Omaha Thunder	(8927) 01/08/2001	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble dark red star. Medium-dark green, pointed, serrated/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Auckland	(8939) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Semidouble-double dark blue frilled/white overlay, blue edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Large</b>

Optimara Bolero . . . . .	(8940) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single vivid pink sticktite/darker eye. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Bora Bora . . . . .	(8941) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single burgundy sticktite/white frilled edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara California II . . . . .	(8942) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble vivid red ruffled. Medium-dark green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Cezanne . . . . .	(8943) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Semidouble-double bright pink/purple fantasy. Light-medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Cha Cha . . . . .	(8944) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single dark purple-blue sticktite. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Chagall . . . . .	(8945) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white/variable dark blue patches. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Charleston . . . . .	(8946) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/darker-circled lilac patches on lower petals. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Degas II . . . . .	(8947) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white sticktite ruffled/dark pink patches on lower petals, variable pink on top petals. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Fiji . . . . .	(8948) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Double dark blue/long petals, white edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Flamenco . . . . .	(8949) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single dark purple-red sticktite/wide white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Hula Hula . . . . .	(8950) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Semidouble-double vivid purple to dark lilac/white edge. Medium green, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Jamaica . . . . .	(8951) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble red/white frilled edge. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Jitterbug . . . . .	(8952) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble red/white edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Kansas II . . . . .	(8953) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Semidouble white ruffled star/vivid purple-red patches. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Lambada . . . . .	(8954) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single lilac two-tone sticktite/darker top petals. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Little Arapahoe . . . . .	(8955) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white/variable light purple-blue tinge. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Optimara Little Chickasaw . . . . .	(8956) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single pink two-tone sticktite/white-green edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Optimara Little Creek . . . . .	(8957) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single pink two-tone sticktite/darker top petals. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Optimara Little Hopi II . . . . .	(8958) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble pink/purple fantasy. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Optimara Little Inca . . . . .	(8959) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single blue sticktite. Light green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Optimara Little Maya . . . . .	(8960) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble red/variable white edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Optimara Little Ottawa . . . . .	(8961) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Double pink. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Optimara Little Pawnee . . . . .	(8962) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single medium blue sticktite. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Optimara Maine II . . . . .	(8963) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white frilled sticktite/purple-blue eye, wide purple edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Mexico City . . . . .	(8964) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single purple-blue sticktite large ruffled star. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Large</b>
Optimara Millennia . . . . .	(8965) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/purple-red striped lower petals. Medium-dark green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Mississippi II . . . . .	(8966) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Semidouble bright pink/white frilled edge. Medium-dark green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Nebraska II . . . . .	(8967) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble burgundy-red/wide white frilled edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Ontario II . . . . .	(8968) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white sparkle sticktite. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>

Optimara Polka	(8969) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single light blue sticktite. Medium green, heart-shaped to pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Renoir	(8970) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single pink sticktite/purple fantasy. Dark green, plain, glossy, hairy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Rio de Janiero	(8971) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/purple-blue edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy. <b>Large</b>
Optimara Romance	(8972) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble pink/darker eye. <b>Variegated</b> green and pinkish cream, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Rumba	(8973) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Semidouble white wavy/lilac to dark lilac patches on tips. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Seurat	(8974) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white ruffled sticktite/variable pink patches. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Shimmy	(8975) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white ruffled/purple-red tips and edge; variable white edge. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Optimara Surprise	(8976) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single pink frilled sticktite/purple fantasy. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy. <b>Standard</b>
Optimara Tango	(8977) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/purple-blue patches on lower petals, variable on top petals. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Twist	(8978) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white frilled sticktite/purple-blue eye, edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Two-step	(8979) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white/burgundy-pink patches. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy/red back. <b>Small standard</b>
Optimara Waltz	(8980) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Semidouble pink. Light-medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Small standard</b>
Oui Discovery		(B. Elkin) Semidouble light violet/darker markings. Dark green, quilted. <b>Miniature</b>
Ozio	(8920) 11/30/2000	(B. Foster) Double pink star/purple fantasy, fuchsia frilled edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
Painted Touch		(P. Sorano) Double light pink ruffled star/blue fantasy. Dark green. <b>Standard</b>
Peek-a-boo Lace	(9052) 06/13/2001	(G. Gay) Single dark purple sticktite ruffled pansy/white fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
People Pleaser	(9016) 03/14/2001	(D. Thompson) Single medium blue sticktite star/white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
Pink Persuasion		(P. Sorano) Single-semidouble medium pink star/darker fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and ivory. <b>Standard</b>
Pink Sensation		(P. Sorano) Single-semidouble pink ruffled star/white eye, edge. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and white, plain. <b>Standard</b>
Playful Spectrum		(P. Sorano) Single-semidouble white fluted star/ blue fantasy, wide lavender-pink band. Medium green. <b>Standard</b>
Plum Parasols	(9017) 03/14/2001	(D. Thompson) Single violet-purple sticktite star/thin white ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, ruffled, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Prairie Springtime		(K. Stork) Single-semidouble pink large frilled star/ thin fuchsia sparkle edge. Medium green. <b>Standard</b>
Prairie Wildfire	(9001) 03/07/2001	(L. Stickney) Single fuchsia-red pansy. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
Quiet Accolade		(B. Elkin) Semidouble red two-tone star/violet band, white edge. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Quiet Accord		(B. Elkin) Semidouble plum-fuchsia star/violet band, white edge. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Quiet Allure		(B. Elkin) Semidouble rose-fuchsia star/wide green-white edge. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Quiet Asset		(B. Elkin) Single magenta star/violet band, blue edge. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
Ramblin' Lassie	(9022) 03/23/2001	(S. Sanders/R. Brenton) Semidouble blue-lavender star. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and white girl foliage. <b>Semiminiature trailer</b>
Raspberry Reflections		(P. Sorano) Single light orchid large sticktite pansy/darker fantasy edge. <b>Variegated</b> medium green, ivory and rose. <b>Standard</b>

Raspberry Sizzle . . . . .	(P. Sorano) Double white pansy/dark raspberry edge. <b>Mosaic variegated</b> light green and ivory. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Rebel's Astro Spinner . . . . . (8888) 08/28/2000	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble chimera pink large frilled star/fuchsia stripe, fantasy; wide white edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Rebel's Barbara . . . . . (8889) 08/28/2000	(R. Bann) Double pink two-tone pansy/rose-tipped top petals. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Rebel's Beauty . . . . . (8890) 08/28/2000	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large ruffled pansy/wide crimson splatter edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and beige, plain, glossy, serrated/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Rebel's Charmin' Pink . . . . . (8891) 08/28/2000	(R. Bann) Semidouble pink two-tone ruffled pansy/rose shading. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and cream, pointed, glossy, serrated. <b>Large</b>
Rebel's Cucumber Kool . . . . . (8892) 08/28/2000	(R. Bann) Semidouble lavender two-tone pansy/purple frilled edge. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy. <b>Standard</b>
Rebel's Kyle Reese . . . . . (8893) 08/28/2000	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble dark blue pansy/white ruffled edge. <b>Variegated</b> light green and ivory, pointed, glossy, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
Rebel's Pink Echoes . . . . . (8894) 08/28/2000	(R. Bann) Semidouble pink two-tone large frilled pansy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and beige, pointed, quilted, glossy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Agnes . . . . . (8981) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single dark blue sticktite. Medium green, plain, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Small standard</b>
Rhapsodie Candy II . . . . . (8982) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white and purple-pink sticktite/variable white edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Cora . . . . . (8983) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white frilled/dark purple patches. Medium-dark green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Deborah . . . . . (8984) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Double white ruffled/dark purple-red patches. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Gloria . . . . . (8985) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Semidouble-double white frilled/purple-blue eye, thin purple edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Hisaku . . . . . (8986) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single dark blue sticktite star/white frilled edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Ilona . . . . . (8987) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single pink sticktite/purple-red eye. Medium-dark green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Jennie II . . . . . (8988) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/thin purple-blue edge. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Jo Ann . . . . . (8989) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single pink sticktite/darker eye. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Katja . . . . . (8990) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single grayish light blue sticktite/darker eye, top petals. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Kazuko . . . . . (8991) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single-semidouble white. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Loretta II . . . . . (8992) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Double dark pink/darker top petals. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy, hairy, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Margit III . . . . . (8993) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single dark blue sticktite. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Small standard</b>
Rhapsodie Michelle II . . . . . (8994) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single pale pink two-tone sticktite large star/darker eye, white edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Patsy . . . . . (8995) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white frilled sticktite/purple-blue eye, edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Rosalie II . . . . . (8996) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white frilled sticktite/bright pink patches. Medium green, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Ruth . . . . . (8997) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single white sticktite/burgundy-purple eye, thin burgundy-purple frilled edge. Medium green, plain, ovate to pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Sabrina II . . . . . (8998) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single light salmon-pink sticktite/variable white eye. Dark green, plain, pointed, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsodie Stephanie II . . . . . (8999) 01/31/2001	(Holtkamp) Single medium blue sticktite. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
Rhapsody in White . . . . .	(P. Sorano) Double white large star. Medium green. <b>Standard</b>

Rob's Bed Bug	(9036) 05/31/2001	(R. Robinson) Double dark red pansy. <b>Crown variegated</b> dark green, pink and beige/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Rob's Inner Orbit	(9037) 05/31/2001	(R. Robinson) Semidouble pink pansy/white edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and white, quilted. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Rob's Loose Noodle	(9038) 05/31/2001	(R. Robinson) Double white star/blue edge. Medium green, pointed. <b>Miniature</b>
Rob's Love Bite	(9039) 05/31/2001	(R. Robinson) Semidouble black-red pansy. <b>Crown variegated</b> dark green, cream and beige/red back. <b>Miniature</b>
Rob's Slap Happy	(9040) 05/31/2001	(R. Robinson) Semidouble dark coral pansy. <b>Crown variegated</b> dark green, white, cream and pink, quilted. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Robert Mayer	(8895) 11/20/2000	(D. Croteau) Semidouble medium pink large star/raspberry edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. <b>Large</b>
Rocket Trail	(8878) 08/07/2000	(H. Pittman) Single-semidouble purple. Medium green, plain. <b>Semiminiature trailer</b>
Rose Bouquet	(9028) 04/12/2001	(G. Smith) Double pink frilled star/darker eye. <b>Mosaic variegated</b> medium green and white, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Rouget	(8916) 11/28/2000	(Club Violettes Longueuil/D. Croteau) Semidouble red large star/white edge. Dark green, quilted/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Royal Dazzler	(9018) 03/14/2001	(D. Thompson) Single chimera dark blue sticktite frilled pansy/white stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy. <b>Standard</b>
Royal Purple Lace	(9053) 06/13/2001	(G. Gay) Double dark purple pansy/darker ruffled edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
Salmon Ella	(8928) 01/08/2001	(K. Stork) Double salmon-coral ruffled star. Dark green/red back. <b>Standard</b>
San Antonio Lady	(9025) 03/29/2001	(S. Sanders) Semidouble-double dark blue ruffled/pink overlay edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and dark pink, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
Saskatoon		(B. Elkin) Semidouble white/pink shading, edge. Medium green. <b>Miniature trailer</b>
Sasquatch		(B. Elkin) Single pink star/rose markings. Medium green, hairy. <b>Semiminiature trailer</b>
Serengeti	(9002) 03/07/2001	(L. Stickney) Semidouble dark blue-purple frilled pansy. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
Shiawasee Trail	(9023) 03/23/2001	(S. Sanders/R. Brenton) Double blue and white variable star. Medium green girl foliage. <b>Standard trailer</b>
Silverglade Beads	(9003) 03/07/2001	(S. Harrison) Single white star/orchid patches. Medium green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Silverglade Candies	(8911) 11/28/2000	(S. Harrison) Semidouble-double pink/wide orchid speckled edge. Medium green, plain, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
Silverglade Cinders	(8912) 11/28/2000	(S. Harrison) Semidouble-double dark orchid-pink frilled/white eye. Medium green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Silverglade Dolls	(8913) 11/28/2000	(S. Harrison) Single-semidouble white/orchid petal tips. Medium green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Silverglade Jewels	(8914) 11/28/2000	(S. Harrison) Semidouble white frilled/lilac two-tone tips. Medium green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Silverglade Pennies	(8915) 11/28/2000	(S. Harrison) Semidouble light pink frilled/bronze-green top petals. Dark green, plain, quilted, wavy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
Silverglade Plums	(9004) 03/07/2001	(S. Harrison) Semidouble lavender frilled/white eye, mauve patches. Medium green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Silverglade Puffs	(9005) 03/07/2001	(S. Harrison) Double medium pink, white and green frilled. Medium green, plain, pointed. <b>Standard</b>
Silverglade Sapphires	(9006) 03/07/2001	(S. Harrison) Single purple-mauve/white eye, edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
Sister Sylvia	(9027) 04/07/2001	(F. Wagman) Single chimera red sticktite pansy/white stripe. Medium green, plain. <b>Semiminiature</b>
Sky and Snow	(9019) 03/14/2001	(D. Thompson) Single white sticktite star/blue-tinged eye, blue ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
Soubrette		(B. Elkin) Semidouble lavender-blue/darker shading. Medium green. <b>Miniature trailer</b>
Special Treat		(P. Sorano) Single-semidouble dark purple ruffled star/thin white band, red-purple edge. Dark green, wavy. <b>Standard</b>

<b>Starry Night Blue</b> .....	(P. Sorano) Semidouble-double medium plum wavy star/white band, thin dark blue edge. Dark green. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Steven Dennis</b> .....	(8937) 01/18/2001 (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble red ruffled pansy. Medium-dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, pebbled. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Stormy Trail</b> .....	(B. Elkin) Double blue-purple star/variable orchid tips. Dark green, pointed. <b>Miniature trailer</b>
<b>Strawberry Sundae</b> .....	(9029) 04/12/2001 (G. Smith) Semidouble hot pink frilled pansy/darker eye. <b>Mosaic variegated</b> light to dark green and cream, plain, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Summer Carnival</b> .....	(P. Sorano) Semidouble white, pink and yellow ruffled/yellow eye, blue fantasy. Dark green. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Susie's Delight</b> .....	(9020) 03/22/2001 (M. Gratto) Single chimera white sticktite pansy/pink and purple fantasy stripe. Dark green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sweet 'n' Spicy</b> .....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble vivid pink pansy. Light-medium green. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sweet Inspiration</b> .....	(P. Sorano) Semidouble chimera pink pansy/white stripe, lavender-pink fantasy. Light green girl foliage. <b>Semiminiature</b>
<b>Taboo</b> .....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble dark red-plum large frilled star. Dark green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Texas Barb</b> .....	(8921) 11/30/2000 (B. Foster) Semidouble fuchsia-red star/variable green edge. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and white, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Thunder Surprise</b> .....	(9024) 03/23/2001 (S. Sanders) Double white star/blue eye, green edge. Medium green, plain. <b>Semiminiature</b>
<b>Tomorrow's Blue Nova</b> .....	(8899) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double light blue star/raspberry ruffled edge. Light green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Tomorrow's Friend</b> .....	(8900) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double light pink ruffled pansy/variable yellow-tinged eye. Dark green, plain, hairy, ruffled/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Tomorrow's Indigo</b> .....	(8901) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double dark blue pansy/raspberry band, thin white edge. Light green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Tomorrow's Pink Ice</b> .....	(8902) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Semidouble light pink ruffled star/raspberry band, white edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Tomorrow's Scepter</b> .....	(8903) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Single-semidouble dark purple-blue star/thin white ruffled edge. Dark green, plain/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Tomorrow's Snowy Night</b> ...	(8904) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double white ruffled star. Dark green, plain, quilted/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Tomorrow's Sunbeam</b> .....	(8905) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double white ruffled pansy/yellow streaks. Medium green, plain, hairy, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Tomorrow's Sunrise</b> .....	(8906) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Semidouble blush ivory pansy/variable yellow eye; red netting on edge. Dark green, plain, serrated/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Tomorrow's Teaser</b> .....	(8907) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Semidouble-double light blue star/thin raspberry ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Tropical Heat Wave</b> .....	(8929) 01/08/2001 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble dark coral-rose large frilled star. Dark green, wavy. <b>Standard</b>
<b>White Crystal</b> .....	(B. Elkin) Single white ruffled star. Light green, wavy. <b>Miniature</b>
<b>Wild Red</b> .....	(8938) 01/18/2001 (D. Harrington) Double red pansy. Medium-dark green, heart-shaped, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Winter Warrior</b> .....	(K. Stork) Semidouble smoky-red two-tone pansy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and pink. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Wonder Trail</b> .....	(B. Elkin) Semidouble lavender two-tone. Olive green, plain/red back. <b>Standard trailer</b>
<b>Yesterday's Child</b> .....	(8908) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Double dark blue pansy. Medium green, ovate, quilted. <b>Standard trailer</b>
<b>Yesterday's Garland</b> .....	(8909) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Semidouble lavender-blue ruffled pansy/variable thin raspberry edge. Dark green, pointed, hairy/red back. <b>Semiminiature trailer</b>
<b>Yesterday's Valentine</b> .....	(8910) 11/24/2000 (J. Smith) Double medium blue pansy. Dark green, heart-shaped, hairy/red back. <b>Standard trailer</b>





Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

*Streptocarpus*  
*'Bristol's*  
*Petticoat'*

*Exhibited by: John Carter*



Photo Credit: Paul Sorano

*Kara's*  
*Birthday*  
*Surprise*

*2001 Introduction*

*Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses*

*Chimera*

# Violets at a Health Fair

by Carrol Smith, RN, MS and Lynne Sheaff, RN, MPH, RNP

In the summer of 2000, Clinical Instructor Lynne Sheaff was working with a group of undergraduate students in the Pilsen Neighborhood of Chicago. The University of Illinois at Chicago students were completing their course in Public Health Nursing in this largely Hispanic area. For several weeks, they had each seen families at home visits providing health education, home safety assessments, well baby physicals and care, immunizations, lead screening, and the many other activities covered by public health nurses. As a finale, they had decided to hold a health fair on their last day in the community.

Carrol Smith, RN, MS, another faculty person at the University of Illinois at Chicago, had recently attended her first AVSA convention in Omaha. At that convention, she met and conversed with Mike Summar, a sales representative for Holtkamp Greenhouses in Nashville, Tennessee. Carrol and Mike had discussed her idea of providing African violets in health settings as incentives for people to participate in health related activities. The student health fair seemed the perfect opportunity to mix the beauty of African violets with information about preventive health care.

Prior to the fair, Carrol contacted Mike who conferred with his managers at Holtkamp. They gave the green light for Mike to ship 150 finished plants to the College of Nursing. Both the shipping costs and the plants themselves were graciously donated by the Holtkamp company.

Carrol and Lynne met with the students prior to the fair to make sure their plans were in order. We decided to place the violets near a booth at which neighborhood women would receive information about breast health, including demonstrations of breast self-examination and printed information in both English and Spanish. Other activities planned were vision and hearing screening for school children, immunizations, blood sugar screening for diabetes, lead screening, and blood pressure screening. There were healthy fruit snacks provided and games and coloring books for the children. The students were to hold the fair on the sidewalk right outside their clinic at a busy intersection in the Pilsen

neighborhood. Only rain would deter them.

The violets arrived the evening before the fair at the College of Nursing. They were beautiful! They spent the night in an air-conditioned conference room and were transported to the fair at 10AM the next morning.

The day could not have been more lovely. The clinic building provided some sidewalk shade for the students and those who attended the fair on that sunny, July day. What a mingling of Spanish and English languages! Entire families came, as well as single men, women with children, and many older adults. Some knew they had health problems and just stopped to have their blood sugar or blood pressure checked. Since diabetes is very prevalent in the Hispanic community, many others wanted to have their blood sugar checked and receive more information about diabetes. Women flocked to the table about breast care and were happy to receive the information and demonstrations.

The violets were a big hit. We found immediately that we

had to make a rule of only one violet per family! It seemed the women most often wanted the pink varieties, the men the blue. They kept asking, "Are these really for us - are these really for free?" When assured they were, the people walked away with big smiles and "Muchas gracias!" Even adolescent boys were coming to get a violet for their grandmothers.

We do not have an accurate record of the total number of people who had fun and learned something about their health on that hot, July morning. We made referrals of at least six children for eye examinations. One person had an elevated blood pressure, previously undiagnosed. Three people had high blood sugar. These four were seen by a clinic physician that day to receive counseling about the screening results and to plan their future health care. We do know we gave 150 African violets to that many happy attendees. We also built a great deal of good will in the Pilsen community that day.

Lynne and Carrol hope this description of our health fair may get some ideas flowing in other AVSA members. There are many things we can do with violets besides admire their beauty and grow them for show. We all have "other lives"



*Nicole Barker smiles in background after sharing African violets with Health Fair visitors.*

into which we might integrate our beautiful plants. See where your creativity can take you.

Carrol Smith wishes to acknowledge and thank our AVSA president, Jack Wilson, for his encouragement of the violet/health fair endeavor. Carrol is a member of the Lake Shore African Violet Society in Chicago. You may contact her at <carrols@uic.edu> where she is currently a full time

doctoral student in Primary Health Care/Women's Health Nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Lynne Sheaff is a family nurse practitioner and is the manager of two busy family health clinics owned by herself and her husband, a surgeon, in the Pilsen community in Chicago. You may contact her at <lcsheaff@yahoo.com>.

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## THIS GROWER'S LATEST SOIL FORMULA

by Lola Rossi • San Mateo, CA

1 Package of Planting Mix  
(with NO time release fertilizers in it)  
1 Package of a good quality Peat Moss  
5-6 or more ground up raw egg shells  
2-3 Cups of left over coffee grounds

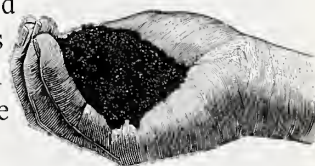
2 Tablespoons Lime  
2 Tablespoons Bone Meal  
About equal to 1 or two cups of Perlite  
2 Cups of charcoal

This combination of materials gives my soil enough acidity, but not too much. Using this recipe, the leaves of my plants have been beautiful, shiny, and healthy-looking.

In my opinion, the commercial planting mixes alone are too heavy for African violets and retain too much water, which is certain death and rotting!

And always remember to sterilize your soil mixes (add the perlite, lime, bone meal and charcoal AFTER sterilizing the peat moss, planting mix, egg shells, and coffee grounds), even if you use straight commercial brands with nothing added. I put mine in a large aluminum throw-away cake pan in a 300 degree oven for about fifteen minutes. Thus far, in my violet-growing career, I have never had any sort of bugs or disease, except for 'brought-in' mealy bugs a couple of times and these, I take care of easily with kitty flea collars. It works every time!

I store my mixed and sterilized soil mixture in either a large glass jar or a small, plastic garbage pail or container, both with lids so the soil stays clean and sterilized.



I never dampen my soil before sterilizing in the oven as is often recommended, because damp soil tends to form mildew and this wouldn't be great for my violets. I do thoroughly dampen my soil in the pot with warm water before transplanting violets or planting new babies, so that the babies, especially, are not dislodged by watering immediately after planting. I also anchor the babies or newly repotted plants with plastic cocktail toothpicks until they are established.

You learn by doing and experiencing and I have learned by trail and error what works well for me and what to avoid.

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## A Very Successful AVSA Auction

by Edna Rourke • Shelton CT 06484

My thanks to the many generous donors and winning bidders who made the Saturday Auction in Chicago a great success. Because of your support, we made over \$3,400.

A very special thank you goes to our auctioneer, AVSA President Jack Wilson who again made our auction as much fun as it was successful. To our auction staff - Charlene Boyce, Dale Martens, Barbara Pershing, Claude Morrisette, Bob Clark, and Bev Promerberger, my gratitude for your help and support. To Ruth Rumsey, our AVSA Editor, and to Jenny Daugereau and Amy Sanders from our AVSA office who have helped all year long, and with assistance from Valerie Phillips of Becker Printing, recorded, collected and kept track of the auction sales, a special thank you. To Joe Bruns for his general donation of time talent in creating our online AV auction pages and to two very special "camp followers" - Pat Wilson and my husband Al - my thanks for their help and behind the scene's support. To our many generous donors: Linda Abplanalp, Marcia

Belisle, Janis Bruns, Marjorie Bullard, John and Judy Carter, Steve Coeval, Celia Daze, Bill and Paul Foster, Arlene Garvens, Don Geiss, The Glenview/North Shore AVS, Marilyn Goldstein, Barbara Goodsell, Oval Hall, Pat Hancock, Nancy Hayes, Mary Hill, Dale Martens, Dot and Bob McCaw, Thelma Miller Charles Newton, Sandy Officer, Bill and Katherine Paauwe, Alice Peterson, Janet Riemer, Chili Sanders, Elinor Skeleton, Dr. Jeff Smith, Nadine Tichy, Frank and Anne Tinari of Tinari Greenhouses, Mary Walbrick, Jean Willey, Jack Wilson, and Genevieve Zondlo, a huge thank you for your generous donations - we couldn't have done it without you.

Last, but certainly not least, to all of our successful winning bidders thank you for your support. Without your enthusiasm and generosity, this auction wouldn't have been possible.

Information about next year's auction will appear in upcoming issues of the African Violet Magazine. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Washington, DC Area Convention.

# Showcase

## *Buckeye Gift Wrapped*

*New Seedling for 2002  
Grown & Hybridized by:  
Pat Hancock  
Pat's Patch*



Photo Credit: Pat Hancock

## *Sapphire Halo*

*AVS of Canada  
2001 National Show  
Exhibited by: Doris Caille  
Hybridized by: G. Boone  
Standard*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Petrocosmea minor*

*2nd Best Gesneriad*

*AVS of Canada*

*2001 National Show*

*Exhibited by: **Bill Price***

# AFRICAN VIOLETS: Gifts From Nature

by Melvin J. Robey

It is hard to believe that twenty years have passed since I wrote a query letter to my publisher to determine if there was any interest in my second book on African violets. I had already written it and the publisher asked to see it. After they reviewed it, they didn't like the format I was proposing. Instead they wanted a "coffee table" book. It had to be heavily illustrated with color photographs.

I'm getting a little ahead of myself in relating the process of going from the desire to write another book to actually holding a finished book in your hand. To be an author you need to have: knowledge, desire, ability, patience and time. Probably just as important is luck. For every published author, there are hundreds who never see their works in print. My first book, African Violets: Queens of the Indoor Garden Kingdom, was published by a company that was sold to another publisher. Fortunately for me, the editors I had worked with went to work for the new company, and when I approached them for the second book, they were very receptive. If you have ever tried to get a publisher interested in your manuscripts, you will know how lucky I was to have this contact in another publishing house.

Back to the "coffee table" book I needed to create. Once I had a contract in hand, I began work on the book. The actual writing of the book took two years. Once I had developed a concept of how I wanted to present the information, the writing went quickly. Anne Tinari graciously agreed to review the completed book for the African Violet Magazine and some of her comments highlighted exactly what I was trying to accomplish with my second African violet book. "A book to include everything you ever wanted to know about the African violets with proper factual information needed to grow flowering plants." "Written in a delightful manner, easy to read in clear familiar terms to follow up with accurate, scientific explanation when appropriate." "This beautiful new book is truly a textbook in every sense of the word with an underlying appreciation of the author's true love and understanding of America's favorite houseplant." Because I knew African violet fanciers are very knowledgeable growers, I believed a book that delved a little deeper into the world of African violets would be well received.

The publisher stipulated the book was to be "profusely illustrated" with artwork, black and white pictures, as well as color photographs. An African violet author's dream had come true. Producing all the illustrations for the book was another project even more complicated than sitting down by myself to write sixteen chapters. The illustrator began drawing, and besides writing, I decided to do the photography. For the illustrations and photographs, I literally had hundreds of plants growing in my home - thousands if you included the

many flats of seedling African violets. Many of the plants would have made the avid hobbyists disgusted, but since I was trying to have all sorts of healthy and sick African violets available, it had to be done for photographing. Once the project was completed, I immediately dumped the less desirable plants in the trash - of course that was done after I had taken leaf cuttings from many of the plants.

The initial correspondence for the book started in November of 1981 and I received my first copies of African Violets: Gifts from Nature in June of 1988. An excruciating, long period of time for an anxious author to see his "baby" in print! Fortunately, the final product was all I had hoped for and has been well received by African violet enthusiasts all over the world.

## Chronological Publishing Steps of African Violets: Gifts from Nature

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Nov. 1981 | first contacted publisher about a second book   |
| Feb. 1982 | Sample chapters, outline and illustrations sent to the publisher  |
| Apr. 1982 | contract received and work on the book began  |
| Apr. 1984 | completed manuscript with illustrations submitted to the publisher  |
| July 1984 | edited manuscript returned for author to check and correct the manuscript as needed                               |
| Apr. 1985 | received galleys (first printing of the text on sheets of paper about 30 inches long)                             |
| Jan. 1987 | received page proofs ( first printing of the text as it actually will appear in the book, with the illustrations) |
| June 1988 | author received six copies of the book  |

A final note on the life of African Violets: Gifts from Nature. The publisher has less than 200 copies available at this time with the prospects of reprinting the book doubtful. This means the first printing of the book will be out of print shortly. I am discussing with the publisher about a second printing, but at this time, I do not have any commitment. For anyone interested in having a copy, I would suggest checking past editions of the African Violet Magazine to find a Commercial Member with copies available. You can also contact [BooksByMel@AOL.Com](mailto:BooksByMel@AOL.Com) on the Internet for information on obtaining signed copies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has a copy of either of my African violet books. Without your support all the hours put into them would have indeed been lonely ones.

# A SOUTH AFRICAN JUDGES HANDBOOK IS BORN

by Joan Halford  
Hon. Past President  
Transvaal AVS

It all started in 1980. As I was leaving the AVSA Convention, the Shows and Judges Chairman, Mrs. Myrtle McKneely, thrust an *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges* into my hands, with the request that she wanted me to consider becoming a judge! To say I was shocked is an understatement. My heart sank. I had only considered myself a fanatical grower of African violets. Study was not for me, no never, not at my age!

I must admit that I had become quite envious of judges that I had come to meet at conventions. They were the first to get into the Showroom, they were the first to know all the top secrets. They were just lucky!

The night before I was due to fly home from New York, my large suitcase was stolen, and all that was left was a devastated Joan, thousands of miles from home, with just the clothes that I stood up in. However, but tucked into my handbag was my air ticket, passport, and, yes a brand new AVSA Judges Handbook.

On the long fourteen hour trip home, with boredom overtaking all else, the only thing I had to read was the AVSA Judges Handbook. I had hours to think of how beautiful our shows could be if I could get together a team, and put into practice what I was reading. Learning then became a ritual for me, and each night, time was put aside to really concentrate. To become a judge became an obsession, studying became a pleasure. I even lost my way, travelling one day, so focussed was I on the spelling of some of the gesneriads!

My growing skills improved. I was judging my own plants and was so enjoying my new absorbing interest, studying.

For more than 18 years, our Transvaal African Violet Society Shows were high on the list of important dates of spring shows, in our capital city of Pretoria. Still today, I get calls asking when the show is due to take place.

They were African violet shows that made our TAVS very proud. Our shows took on an air of being spectacular. We were a great team of workers. I was proud to be President and Show Chairman for fifteen consecutive years.

Sadly, in 1996, my husband and I felt the time had come for us to move away from the farm, where we had both been born and lived for over fifty-three years. Isolated, as we were, was no longer safe. Farm terrorism was rife, and still is.

1996 was my last show. Sixty-two plants were exhibited, fifteen of my best were on a Display Table, and 1800 were for the Sales Room, all in bloom. We never sold starter plants; the public only wanted plants in bloom,

twelve inches in diameter or more!

With that went the closure of three greenhouses. My heart was in pieces. We bought a house in this Retirement Village, and in no time, a few shelves and lights were in place and some of my favorites were with me again. With so little space, and no help, it was impossible to grow plants for plant sales, let alone show plants.

Sadly, our beautiful shows have never appeared again, but I am now more optimistic.

Over the years, I had turned my thoughts to teaching judges, and tried to encourage all who showed the slightest interest, but this fell on deaf ears. I went through the AVSA Handbook, and deleted all that would not apply to our shows, and this I sent far and wide, but still I had no takers.

Lectures and workshops are still very much part of my life. Agricultural Women's groups, church or garden clubs, are still my main target in the hopes that we will stimulate more underlying interest in the propagation of top quality African violets.

Two years ago, I asked Bill Foster, former AVSA President and current Shows and Judges Chairman, if I could produce a handbook for South African judges, as I was getting nowhere, except older! Bill gave me permission to make use the AVSA Handbook, and do my best to put into print a Judges Handbook for South Africa.

This I have now done, but not without tremendous effort. A lot of time has been spent in trying to devise a workable plan to hold Judging schools and examinations. Remember our distances. Air travel is very expensive here, and the few clubs that we have are hundreds of kilometers apart.

And so I set to work on this book. I bought a computer, took a few lessons, and off I went, thinking it would be easy. It has been an uphill battle for me, so far only the first part of my dream has come true.

At last, the *South African Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges* has been born. It looks good, proudly shows off a plastic lavender cover, and is a loose-leaf binder, so inevitable changes can be made. It proudly acknowledges AVSA and the help your Handbook has given us.

Hopefully, in June 2002, there will be twelve qualified student judges in South Africa. Only then will my dream start to become a reality. From then on, my mission will be to encourage these students to carry on with their examinations and finally get the satisfaction that I have enjoyed from learning to be a Judge.



# *Saintpaulia botanica*



# Saintpaulia 'botanika' - A Very Unusual African Violet

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One of the advantages of belonging to the e-mail discussion groups on African violets is that members often post pictures of their plants. This offers others the opportunity to look at many cultivars, help diagnose problems, and set up "wish lists" for future acquisitions. Occasionally, the picture is of something truly unusual or interesting.

This was the case at the end of last year when Angelika Richter of Germany posted a message, then a picture, of a plant called *Saintpaulia* 'botanika'. According to the available information, *Saintpaulia* 'botanika' appeared as a seedling in greenhouse in England. The plant had been introduced to Germany through the Dutch flower market and was being sold in Europe by various flower shops or botanical gardens. The unusual flowers and coloring of the plant generated a number of messages and discussion among the e-mail group members.

At first, I was struck by the amount of yellow coloration visible in the flowers and thought that the plant might be from a yellow flowered African violet breeding program. The yellow pigment trait sometimes causes the blooms to be distorted, although I had never seen such an extreme case before. However, after looking at close-up pictures of the flowers, I have a hypothesis as to what has occurred in *Saintpaulia* 'botanika'. I believe that the plant is indeed a mutation, but the mutation is in the structural development genes that control the formation of the flowers. Although I have seen similar mutations in other species, I am not aware of a previous report of this kind of mutation in African violets.

Studies in plant genetics have suggested that development of flower parts is under the control of three structural genes, called Genes A, B, and C. The four flower whorls or layers, the sepals, petals, stamens, and pistils, are produced by the action or interaction of the three genes. For example, in a normal flower, the action of Gene A produces sepals. The activity of both Genes A and B will produce petals. The combination of Genes B and C produce the stamens. Pistils are produced by the activity of Gene C. In many plant species, mutations are known where the structural genes are active or not active in the wrong parts of the flower. In these cases, the

flowers may be very deformed. For example, if only Gene A is active and Genes B and C do not work, all of the flower parts are converted in sepals. If Gene B does not work, the flowers have only sepals and pistils.

A close examination of the flowers of *Saintpaulia* 'botanika' shows the presence of normal sepals and pistils. The middle two whorls of flower parts are very abnormal. The petals are distorted and the stamens have very large and pronounced anthers or pollen sacks. A closer examination of the petals shows that the petals are smaller than expected. The edges of the petals are frequently puffy and have developed a distinct yellow coloration. In short, it appears that the petals are trying to develop into yellow anthers or pollen sacks.

In order for this condition to occur, I hypothesize that a mutation has occurred that allows Gene C to become active in the petals and is causing them to develop abnormally. Petals are produced by active Genes A and B, but the presence of Gene C is causing the petals to develop into partial stamens. Thus, all three genes appear to be active in this part of the flowers. The stamens are produced by Genes B and C, but the over-development of the anthers or pollen sacs suggests that Gene C is perhaps too active. Therefore, the mutation appears to be one which allows Gene C to be over-active in parts of the flower, especially in the whorls of petals and stamens.

This mutation is one of the more striking and unusual ones to be seen in African violets in recent history. Whereas other mutations such as double petals had immense commercial value, I doubt that the mutation of *Saintpaulia* 'botanika' will ever be more than a curiosity. The fertility of *Saintpaulia* 'botanika' is unknown at this time so it is uncertain if the mutation can be combined with other petal colors or different foliage characteristics. However, for those growers who seek the highly unusual African violet, *Saintpaulia* 'botanika' may make an excellent addition to your collection.

Thanks to Angelika Richter for posting the original e-mail message and picture, Agnetha Widell for providing the close-up picture, and Isabell Olevall for bringing *Saintpaulia* 'botanika' to my attention for helping to provide background information and for proofing the manuscript.

# The Evolution of African Violets

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Many growers of African violets know that these plants had their origin in east Africa. They may also know that a number of species of African violets are available and can be shown in special classes in AVSA shows. What may not be known, however, is that the understanding of the evolutionary history of African violets has been changing recently because of evidence gathered by biotechnology techniques. This evidence suggests some surprises as to where African violets originated and what are the relationships between the various species. The purpose of this article is to summarize the results of these studies.

Many of the current species of African violets or genus *Saintpaulia* were described by Dr. Bill Burt (Burt, 1958). The criteria Burt used to delimit one species from another were various differences in the morphological (body form) characteristics of the leaves and flowers. This mechanism for dividing plants into species is an ancient and time-honored method. In fact, humans tend to classify items instinctively based on their amount of similarity or differences. Objects that look the same are grouped as belonging together; objects that look different are grouped as not belonging together. With plants, individuals that look the same are grouped as being members of the same "species" or type of plant. Individuals that appear different may be grouped as belonging to different species depending on the observations and opinions of the person doing the descriptions.

One difficulty with this method is a definition on how "different" two individuals can be and still belong to the same species. In humans, it is obvious that there are differences between individuals (e.g. hair color, eye color, height), but we are all members of the same species. With plants, the differences between the species may be subtle. Telling one species from another may take a careful examination by an expert. There is an additional problem in determining how much variation can be accepted between the members of the



species before they are split apart into different species. If the full range of variation between the members of the group is not known, splitting them into different species can be hazardous and possibly erroneous.

Recent collections of *Saintpaulia* have found that there is more variation between individuals than was apparent in the materials studied by Burt. As these collections are examined, the differences between the currently described species become more hazy and fuzzy. Since many of the species can interbreed with each other (Arisumi, 1964; Clayberg, 1961) and produce intermediate types of offspring, separating

plants into species based on their morphological appearance becomes increasingly more difficult. Given these concerns, a question arises, are there better methods or techniques for separating plants into species?

A group of methods that have been very successful in examining the relationship between individuals is DNA biotechnology. In this procedure, the genetic material of the organism, its DNA, is used to compare differences and similarities between individuals. DNA is made of a long string of the bases Adenine, Thymine, Guanine and Cytosine (A, T, G, C respectively). The order or sequence of the bases in the strands of DNA is critical; if the order is changed, the genetic trait will be altered. Scientists have developed methods to extract DNA and sequence sections of it so that the exact order of the bases is known. By comparing the sequence of bases, the relationship between two individuals can be determined. Organisms that have many bases in the same sequence share a recent common ancestor and are closely related to each other. Organisms that have fewer bases in the same sequence are not closely related and their common ancestor was more distant in their evolutionary past. Organisms that show a distant relationship are likely to belong to different species or even different families.

Over the last six years, several studies have been done that examined the base sequence of parts of the DNA from members of genus *Saintpaulia* and other plants of the Gesneriaceae. The DNA used in these studies have been from several different sources. Some studies have used the DNA taken from the chloroplasts (Smith, Wolfram, Brown, Carroll and Denton, 1997) while others have used nuclear DNA (Müller and Cronk, 1997a, 1997b; Lindqvist and Albert, 1999).

The chloroplast DNA examined was for a trait known as *ndhF*. In tobacco, this trait has 2103 base pairs and codes for a protein that is presumed to be a subunit of the NADH dehydrogenase enzyme (Sugirua, 1992). This enzyme is one of the key photosynthetic enzymes and should remain relatively unchanged or conserved over evolutionary time. Chloroplast DNA is also inherited maternally with traits being passed from female parent to offspring. The results of Smith et.al. (1997) found that when compared to other members of Gesneriaceae family, genus *Saintpaulia* was most closely related to genus *Streptocarpus*, subgenus *Streptocarpella*. Both genera share the same base chromosome number (N=15), further supporting a close genetic relationship.

Müller and Cronk (1997a) used nuclear DNA for a study that compared eight species of genus *Saintpaulia* and between several other genera of plants in the Gesneriaceae family. The DNA used in this study was part of the genetic information of making ribosomes, a cell structure that helps make proteins. Ribosomal DNA has proven very useful in genetic studies because it is one of the most common traits contained within a cell and is represented by multiple copies. The DNA was isolated, copied by a technique called Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and the purified product was read for base pair sequence.

The DNA examined was found to contain 521 base pairs.

Of these, 213 or 48% were exactly the same between all of the plants examined. Another 161 or 36.4% had some potential for differentiating between plants, and only 68 or 15.4% were unique to individuals.

The results supported the chloroplast DNA study that genus *Saintpaulia* is indeed closely related to genus *Streptocarpus* subgenus *Streptocarpella*. The results within genus *Saintpaulia* found very little differences between the species. A maximum of nine base pair differences was found (between *S. brevopilosa* and *S. rupicola*), but several of the species were identical. Müller and Cronk (1997a) interpret the results to mean that *Saintpaulia* evolved out of subgenus *Streptocarpella*. They speculated that the differences in flower and vegetative characters between the two groups are probably due to ecological adaptation to a wet cliff habitat and a shift of pollinators from nectar rewards to pollen rewards. Since most of the DNA was identical between the species within genus *Saintpaulia*, this genus must have split into species in the very recent evolutionary past and there hasn't been sufficient time for the individual species to change much in their DNA composition.

Another study by Müller and Cronk (1997b) used nuclear ribosomal DNA, but expanded the number of *Saintpaulia* species studied to 17. The emphasis in this study was for a better understanding of the relationship between the African violet species. The results were used to build a family tree showing which *Saintpaulia* species is the likely ancestor to the others.

The results suggest that *S. goetzeana* is the closest species to the ancestral type. Since many growers know that cultivated African violets were developed from *S. ionantha*, having another species shown to be the ancestral type, especially one that is not widely known, may come as a big surprise. In many respects the DNA evidence does make sense because *S. goetzeana* has a growth form that is similar to subgenus *Streptocarpella*, the proposed ancestor to genus *Saintpaulia*. Both plants have elongated internode regions and small opposite leaves. Both have blue or blue/white flowers. The results are just contrary to what we might have expected given our familiarity with *S. ionantha*.

The results of this study yielded another surprise. Burt (1958) had suggested that the original home of genus *Saintpaulia* was in the Usambaras Mountains of Tanzania. More species of African violets are found in this area, so the conclusion was that this must be where the plants originated. *S. goetzeana*, however, is not from this area, but is from the Uluguru Mountains further south. If *S. goetzeana* is the ancestral form, then the original home of the genus should be in the Uluguru Mountains rather than the Usambaras Mountains.

There is another problem with the Usambaras Mountains being the ancestral home to genus *Saintpaulia*. Eleven species from the Usambaras (*S. difficilis*, *S. diplotracha*, *S. grandifolia*, *S. grotei*, *S. ionantha*, *S. magungensis*, *S. magungensis* var. *minima*, *S. orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, *S. Sigi Falls*, *S. tongwensis*, *S. velutina*) could not be separated from each other by their DNA (Müller and Cronk .1997b). In

fact, nine of the species were exactly alike in their ribosomal DNA.

Müller and Cronk (1997b) suggest these results mean that the Usambaras species are newly arrived to this location and have just started the process of radiating into new species. The process by which a species radiates into multiple species once it reaches a new habitat is best known with the finches on the Galapagos Islands. In this situation, one original finch species has radiated into 13 new species. Müller and Cronk (1997b) suggest that the high similarity of the DNA sequences dates the arrival of *Saintpaulia* in the Usambaras and their subsequent radiation into species as recently as the Pleistocene. Perhaps in hindsight its no wonder that these species are interfertile and are often difficult to tell apart; they are still in the process of evolving into new separate species.

Lindqvist and Albert (1999) used a different ribosomal DNA sequence in a study that examined 19 African violet species materials, including some new collections from the Nguru Mountains (*S. pusilla* and *S. goetzeana*) and the plant from Kenya currently known in cultivation as *Saintpaulia Robertson*. The DNA region they examined is thought to be a faster evolving sequence than that used by Müller and Cronk (1997b) and could possibly resolve some of the confusion with the Usambara Mountain species.

The results suggested that the African violet species fell into 4 main groups that are also reinforced by geographical location. One group contained *S. pusilla* and two clones of *S. goetzeana* and was found in the Ukaguru and Uluguru Mountains. *S. teitensis* from the Teita Hills of Kenya stands alone as a second group. The various plants found in the Nguru Mountains contain a third group. The last and largest group is the multiple species from the Usambara Mountains. While the results of Lindqvist and Albert (1999) are consistent with Müller and Cronk (1997b), they do suggest that the original home of genus *Saintpaulia* is in the Nguru Mountains as 2-3 of the groups, including *S. goetzeana* are found in this area.

Another interesting result from this study concerns the *Saintpaulia Robertson* material. This plant is new to collections and is known from two sites in Kenya. While originally thought to be a form of *S. rupicola* (Burt, personal communication), the DNA evidence now suggests that these plants are unique and are not forms of *S. rupicola*. *Saintpaulia Robertson*, therefore, is possibly different enough to be described as a new species. If plant taxonomists agree with this interpretation and describe the plant formally as required for a new species, *Saintpaulia Robertson* could soon be added to the list of species for genus *Saintpaulia*.

The most recent examination of the DNA from genus *Saintpaulia* comes from a project report to the Boyce Edens Research fund. In this study (Müller, Guihal and Preston, 1999) more clones and species of African violets were examined (up to 29). Additional regions of DNA were also examined. The preliminary results are in general agreement with the earlier studies, but a few interesting questions have been

raised. For example, *S. magungensis* var. *occidentalis* does not place with either *S. magungensis* or *S. magungensis* var. *minima*, suggesting that this variety has been erroneously placed. A new clone of *S. pendula* (Uppsala collection), two clones of *S. pendula* var. *Kizarae*, and a clone of *S. confusa* (Mather collection) cluster with the Nguru mountain species. While the species names given to these clones were given based on morphological evidence, the DNA results suggest that they may belong to other species and need to be re-examined.

In conclusion, the last few years have been a very exciting time for the study of the *Saintpaulia* species. With the use of molecular biotechnology techniques, we have learned that African violets are evolved from within subgenus *Streptocarpella* which suggest some new directions for future hybridizing efforts. The original African violet is now thought to be *Saintpaulia goetzeana* and the original location was in the southern Tanzanian mountains, not the Usambaras Mountains. This information can be used for prioritizing conservation efforts of these endangered plants. We also now have an explanation as to why many of the species are interfertile and are sometimes difficult to tell apart. The data may not at this time fully resolve the question of "how many species of African violets are there?", but it does help us understand better the origins and genetic diversity of our favorite plant.

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# Reusing Containers



by Briony Gniechwitz

I like to reuse containers. Maybe it is because I'm a biology student and am interested in recycling and reuse. Maybe it is because I prefer to throw less away. Or maybe it's because I'm too cheap to go out and buy new containers all the time. Probably, all three. So, how do I reuse those containers while being sure I'm not spreading disease by poor sanitation? I soak all my plastic containers (which is what I use, really) in a tub of warm water and bleach. A rough mixture would be 1 part bleach to 10 parts water, plus a squirt or two of the detergent I use to wash my dishes in the sink (not the dish washer detergent). I try to leave them overnight, as if avoiding cleaning dirty pots was difficult. I have heard others recommend a week. Labels, by the way, should come off. If they don't, soak the label with some kind of oil, and let sit over night. The oil seems to dissolve the glue. Ink should come off, too. I label my pots with a black Sharpie permanent ink marker. The longer the soak, the less you need to scrub.

I recently learned that this bleach water solution becomes less effective after two hours. The addition of water to the bleach is what makes the solution less stable than the bleach by itself. It would be better, then, to make up this solution immediately before use, and not to mix up large batches for future use. Also, the last time I had a large amount of pots and reservoirs to clean, I put them all in a large plastic container with a sealable lid. I got a bad migraine the day after soaking the pots, and wasn't up to leaning over a sink scrubbing.

So, I left it all for another 24 hours. Everything needed much less scrubbing. This might be because the tub was **sealed**, so the mixture was able to stay more potent for longer with less gas escaping. But, I really don't know.

I suppose you could use the dishwasher for the more sturdy plastics - but it will melt thin plastic. The solo cups come out all right, but they're tossed about and the ink/labels

don't come off that way. I always run food containers through the dishwasher before use - these include margarine tubs, cottage cheese and sour cream containers.

Reusing containers can go beyond reusing your old pots and cups, though. Most of my early reservoirs were margarine tubs and sour cream containers that went through the dishwasher. I would then cut holes in the lids with my Exacto knife. These aren't the most attractive containers, but they're economical and they work. Beyond this, the only limit to reusing your usual "junk" or "garbage" is probably your imagination. I have found that a three ounce solo cup fits very nicely in the mouth of an empty yogurt cup, for wick watering. And, although they aren't containers, other things can be found to use for your African violets. Old blinds, or cheap new ones, can be cut up for labels to stick into pots, after being labeled with permanent ink. Straws can be used to hold up leaves while they root, as can the older Venetian blinds. Baby spoons can be used to add soil into pots when repotting. Stirring straws, those tiny red or brown plastic sticks you can stir coffee with, are also great for holding up leaves, or keeping a plastic bag/tent up over a plant or leaf for a makeshift ICU for African violets.

I have heard of using glass wine glasses or brandy snifters for wicking reservoirs. Another idea I've read about was filling the bottom third or half with perlite, then plant the violet in the glass. You have to be careful to keep water in the glass, but never higher than that added bottom layer of perlite. It could be considered a kind of adapted Texas Potting.

It is only your own creativity that sets the boundaries of what you can do with these plants. Look through your house, or the grocery store, with a new mindset. Ask yourself: "How can I use these things in my African violet hobby?"

*From the Newsletter of the Fantasy Violeteers AVC*

# AVSA's BEST VARIETY LIST FOR YEAR 2001

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Welcome to AVSA's 2000 *Best Variety List*. Thank you to all who participated by regular mail and e-mail. Your comments and support are deeply appreciated.

Again this year we list each of the top Twenty-five favorites with their descriptions from AVSA's *First Class* computer data base. Read the list, read the descriptions and choose your new favorite for your collection.

1. **Irish Flirt** (7577) 11/07/91 (S. Sorano) Double bright green and white frilled star. Medium green, wavy. Semiminiature
2. **Ness' Crinkle Blue** (8136) 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double dark blue star/thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. Semiminiature
3. **Pixie Blue** (2598) 09/16/74 (L. Lyon) Single purple-blue/darker center. Plain, ovate. Miniature trailer
4. **Rainbow's Quiet Riot** (R. Wasmund) Semidouble blue-purple large star/white fantasy. Dark green, round, scalloped. Standard
5. **Milky Way Trail** (7169) 08/01/89 (J. Stahl) Single-semidouble white pansy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. Semiminiature trailer
6. **Picasso** (6924) 10/04/88 (M. Tremblay) Double light blue/white fantasy. Variegated medium green, plain/silver-green back. Large
7. **Precious Pink** (6025) 07/05/85 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink. Variegated, plain. Semiminiature
8. **Melodie Kimi** (8100) 09/15/94 (Sunnyside/Levy) Single white sticktite pansy/purple-blue top petals, tips. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy. Standard
9. **Happy Cricket** (5726) 04/29/84 (Hollada) Double lavender two-tone frilled. Dark green, ruffled/red back. Large
10. **Snuggles** (5018) 08/27/82 (L. Lyon) Semidouble pink. Variegated. Semiminiature
11. **Granger's Wonderland** (3419) 05/01/78 (Eyerdom) Semidouble light blue frilled. Plain, ruffled. Large
12. **Tiger** (3433) 06/01/78 (I. Fredette) Semidouble dark blue-violet. Variegated. Large
13. **Jazzy Jewel** (7963) 10/08/93 (S. Sorano) Semidouble pink-fuchsia sticktite large star/white frilled edge. Medium green, plain, serrated/red back. Large
14. **Harbor Blue** (6174) 02/24/86 (T. Weber) Single light blue/darker eye. Dark green, plain/red back. Large
15. **Mickey Mouse** (H. Inpijn) Double dark blue. Dark green, pointed/red back. Miniature
16. **Powwow** (7708) 06/15/92 (K. Stork) Semidouble red pansy. Variegated green and cream, plain. Standard
17. **Cirelda** (3620) 03/01/79 (P. Tracey) Double pink two-tone. Quilted. Semiminiature trailer
18. **Nortex's Snowkist Haven** (6046) 09/12/85 (B. Johnson) Single white frilled star. Medium green, pointed, quilted, hairy. Standard
19. **Falling Snow** (Tracey) Semidouble white. Light green. Semiminiature trailer
20. **Ness' Satin Rose** (8144) 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double rose-mauve two-tone star. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. Semiminiature
21. **Tomahawk** (7269) 01/22/90 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double bright red. Dark green, plain. Large
22. **Windy Day** (7719) 06/15/92 (Stork/Boone) Semidouble medium blue star/white-green ruffled edge. Dark green, pointed, ruffled/red back. Large
23. **Frosted Whisper** (7198) 10/07/89 (R. Scott) Single white sticktite star/white glitter overlay. Variegated medium green, quilted, frilled. Large
24. **Makin' Romance** (6685) 06/05/87 (J. Domiano) Semidouble orchid ruffled/red-purple upper tips, eye. Medium green, plain, pointed, glossy/red back. Large
25. **Rob's Sticky Wicket** (6467) 01/27/87 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light fuchsia. Medium green, pointed. Semiminiature trailer

## And the runners-up are:

Blushing Ivory, Bertha, Rodeo Country, Lela Marie, Little Pro, Optimara Rose Quartz, The Alps, Maverick's Faded Jeans, Ness' Orange Pekoe, Ness' Viking Maiden, Vintage Wine, Baby Brian, Halo's Aglitter, Kiwi Dazzler, Ness' Sno Fun.





# Success in a Different Climate

by Rosemary Yeates • Ft. Pierce, FL

I live in south central Florida, on the east coast. Having relocated from Buffalo, New York, I found raising African violets here to be quite a challenge. I had a successful and rewarding hobby up north and was worried that I might not be able to continue enjoying my hobby of raising African violets in Florida. Boy, was I ever wrong! My violets are just as gorgeous as the "show" plants that I grew up north.

The two factors I worried about most were the extreme humidity and Florida's insect population. These can be negative factors in growing African violets successfully.

I use the capillary method of watering. I have trays that are lined with 100% acrylic blanketing. The "constant" feed program has been very rewarding. When using this method, it is necessary to reduce the recommended strength of fertilizer. To the gallon of tepid water I add: 1/8 teaspoon fertilizer, one drop of Superthrive to provide vitamins and hormones for the violets, and one tablespoon of Physan 20 to ward off algae on the blankets and trays. It makes for a much easier job in cleaning the trays. After three or four weeks of watering with the fertilized water, I water with plain tepid water, flushing the fertilizer salt build-up out of the soil. This build-up can be very detrimental to African violets. I alternate my fertilizers to give my violets a variety in their "diet". I read somewhere once that humans wouldn't like the same thing to eat at every meal so it makes sense to alternate fertilizers now and then. My plants sit on a plant stand that my husband built for me, which consists of four shelves, with a four foot fluorescent light under each shelf. The lights are on a timer, and are on for twelve hours a day, but only ten hours in the summer.

I use a very porous soil, which I mix with peat, perlite, bone meal, superphosphate, vermiculite, dolomite lime and a little charcoal.

Overwatering is an African violet's worst enemy. I tell everyone who buys my plants to stick a pencil in the soil; if the pencil comes out clean - free from any signs of the soil - water the plant. If the soil sticks to the pencil, don't water, as there is enough moisture in the soil. So many have told me that this little hint has made a big difference in the success of keeping an African violet alive.

I use flea collars (the large size) to discourage insects around my plant stand. I cut the flea collar in pieces and scatter them around the trays of violets on my plant stand. My violets have never looked better.

Since I use the capillary method for watering, this induces humidity. I run a ceiling fan in the room where the violets are, twenty-four hours a day. This is to discourage mildew on the plants.

I also use Allegro on my babies. This seems to give my plantlets that have first been removed from the mother leaf a healthy start.

When I take my plants to plant sales, people touch the leaves because they can't believe my plants are real. The foliage is lush and green and I get beautiful blooms. I hope some of my methods can prove to be useful to others. I have received African Violet magazines for the past twenty-five years. These magazines have provided me with a wealth of information on raising my African violets as successfully as I have. What a rewarding hobby these plants have proven to be!



## Unusual Blossom 'Okie Grape Festival'

photo by Lindsey Owsley  
Tahlequah, OK

# Growing Your Showplant

by Sue Gardner

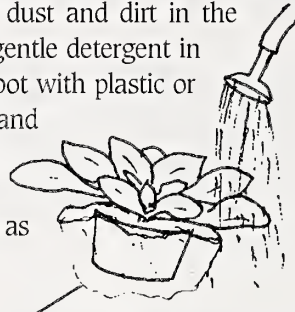
(from 11-7 weeks before show)

## Cleaning

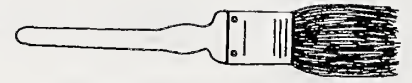
Keep your plants as clean as possible by gentle brushing if they look dusty. Keep the cat away! Some people use a damp tissue to remove dust and cat hairs from the leaves.

Alternatively, you can wash the leaves to remove dust and dirt in the following way. Spray with a solution of a few drops of gentle detergent in a 500ml spray bottle of hot water. Cover the soil in the pot with plastic or a paper plate cut as shown. Hold the plant on a slant, and wash detergent off leaves under a gentle stream of tepid water from the tap or shower sprayer.

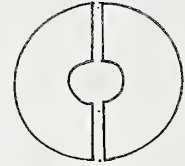
Wash off any fertilizer if you spill it on the leaves as once it's dry, it becomes too difficult.



pot covered with plastic



Use a soft paintbrush



paper plate cut to cover potting mix

## Training

1. Remove any sucker that forms.
2. Keep adjusting leaves which move out of place. Move wayward leaf gently and hold in place with clothes peg clipped to edge of pot.



If the leaf won't lie flat when you clip the peg in place, put a small smooth piece of wooden skewer through the hole in the peg, so that the skewer keeps the leaf flat. See figure (b).

Bobby pins (clipped to the rim of the pot) are good to train the leaves of minis.



3. If the leaves droop, use a plastic coated paper plate cut as shown above to slip in each side of the plant to support them.
4. Remove flower stalks if you are disbudding to prevent them distorting the leaf pattern.
5. Keep an eye out for any pests or mildew. Spray powdery mildew straight away as you don't want to risk damaging flowers later.



Move leaf to fill gap

Figure (a)



piece of skewer placed through peg hole to hold leaf flat

Figure (b)

Bobby pin clipped to pot edge



## Fertilizing

It is now time to use a bloom booster if you wish. Use it in your reservoirs during the 10th, 9th and 8th week before the show. If you do not have a bloom booster, use your balanced African violet fertilizer. If you wish, you may foliar feed as well.

Discontinue bloom booster fertilizer at the 7th week before the show. This is to prevent a small row of leaves forming due to a lack of nitrogen. Use a well balanced fertilizer instead.

## Light

If you grow in natural light, make sure to turn your plants regularly to prevent them bending toward the light. Place them in the best position to receive maximum light. On cold nights, however, remove from near cold glass.

Plant stacking can be useful to maximize the use of light. If you grow under lights, place your plants on reservoirs of different heights so that the leaves overlap slightly without touching. In this way, you can fit more plants under your lights and, because the centers are in full light, the plants will grow well and flower.

## Disbudding

When do you stop disbudding?

According to our schedule, you stop disbudding doubles eight weeks before the show, semi-doubles seven weeks, and singles six weeks before the show. If your home is cool, or if you grow in natural light, I would allow one week extra for flowering. So, disbud doubles nine weeks before show, semi-doubles eight weeks before etc.

Optimara violets require longer to flower, so allow them an extra two weeks, ie last disbud 10 weeks before show.

*From the Eary Morn AV Group  
Newsletter Australia & New Zealand*



# Ordering From Mail Order Catalogs

by Shirley Nelson and Barb Pershing

Spring is the time we get anxious for something new on our plant shelves. The seed catalogs tell us all about the new annuals and perennials that we can grow in our gardens and we begin to get a little tired of some of the violets we have been growing for a while. When members of the cedar Valley AVC were asked what they were looking for, they indicated something different, certain colors and descriptions, variegated leaves, symmetry. Each person has their own preferences, and the spring catalogs provide descriptions to whet the appetite of everyone, regardless of what we are looking for.

Blossom size, color, and descriptions are the first thing we usually look at. The catalogs often give more descriptive narrative than you will find in the Master Variety List (MVL), but it is there to get your attention. The first thing that catches our eye in the leaf description is the variegation.

Another important consideration is size of the plant. If the description says 'Large' and you are limited in space, perhaps it is best to move on, even if the rest of the description is very tempting. Some descriptions are now listing 'small standard', which usually means that it is larger than a semi-miniature but doesn't get as large as a 'standard' may grow. It is still considered a standard as far as the MVL is concerned.

Knowing the hybridizer of the varieties that do well for

you is an important consideration when mail-ordering.

Some feel that violets hybridized in a particular part of the country may do better for growers in the same region due to growing conditions, i.e., temperature, humidity, etc. Others feel this isn't an important consideration.

Growers do have their favorites as far as hybridizers are concerned. There are many hybridizers listed in the MVL.

Many of the commercial growers list their addresses in the African Violet Magazine and also on the Internet. You can order electronically via e-mail. Descriptions, and often pictures of violets, are on commercial growers' web sites. Travis violets have colored pictures of the blossoms of their new introductions. Rob's Mini-o-lets and Lyons catalogs are on-line.



*From the Bloomin' Violet, Cedar Valley AVC*

## Suggestions on Ordering Leaves and Plants from Commercials

Don't ask commercial growers to send during the very hot months or the very cold months. They usually pack with insulation, but plants and leaves can cook or freeze and neither condition will provide live plants!

When you order, be sure to list several substitutes - both in leaves and plants. If you don't list substitutes, the grower will make substitutes if they can't supply your choices. If you don't want substitutes, be sure to tell them.

When you receive your order, it is extremely important to quarantine your plants. Pests may be present and not visible, especially soil dwelling pests such as soil mealy bugs. Lengthy isolation and treatment of plants with chemicals such as systemics may be the only way to avoid unwanted outbreaks of thrips, mites, and mealy bugs. Each requires a different treatment. No commercial will knowingly sell pest ridden plants, but in greenhouse conditions, it is often difficult to control. If you do find pests in your newly acquired plants, notify the grower immediately. They should know there is a problem.

Buying leaves is cheaper and also less of a chance of get-

ting pests. You usually receive two leaves of a variety and you get several plantlets from each leaf. (A chance to sell a new variety to the club members or sale).

Wash the leaves in bleach solution; one gallon water to one cup household bleach and a squirt of dish washing liquid. Let them soak ten minutes. Rinse, cut the stem, pot them, cover with plastic, and you should have pest-free plantlets in eight weeks. Keep the strongest plantlets and discard the weakest ones.

If you are considering ordering from a commercial grower, you might want to get together with a couple of club members and send one order. It cuts down on the postage and handling costs and you can share leaves when they arrive.

See the latest issue of the African Violet Magazine for advertisements that give catalog ordering information. Most catalogs cost from one to three dollars with the cost refunded with your first order.

*From the Bloomin' Violet, Cedar Valley AVC*

# African Violets by Season

by Ruth Coulson • Australia

Some many years ago there was a series of articles dealing with the African violet varieties which were suitable for growing in winter and those more suitable for growing in summer. While the varieties listed then are probably not in general cultivation now, there are still some plants which appreciate heat and some which appreciate cool conditions. This certainly applies to some that I grow.

Often it is not so much just a matter of how they grow, but a matter of how well the flowers look in the different conditions.

These general points apply:

- Colors are deeper and richer in cooler weather, paler in heat.
- Flower size is greater in cooler weather.
- White edges on flowers tend to be less distinct, or may entirely disappear in heat; although they are very clear in cool weather.
- Fantasy markings on some varieties are more pronounced in cool weather.
- Variegation is much more evident when temperatures are low and may disappear altogether in heat.

## Yellow flowered violets.

These are at the top of my list of varieties for growing and flowering over winter rather than summer. I find that in the summer, the yellow almost entirely disappears, ready to show itself in the next winter.

Over the last winter, I had great pleasure from 'Moonlit Snow' and 'Lemon Kisses', two very similar plants with lemon yellow flowers. They looked great a few months ago, but I noticed that in the summer, after a few weeks of warmth, the flowers were almost white. But never mind, for they will be flowering their beautiful pale yellow flowers again next winter.

## Geneva edged violets.

In particular I find that three of my favorites - 'Taffeta Petticoats', 'Redland's Pride' and 'Ness' Starburst' are just outstanding in cool weather, with very wide distinct white edges. In the hotter weather, the white edges can almost disappear, especially on 'Ness' Starburst', so that it becomes fairly ordinary. Not all varieties are affected as badly as this one, but if possible, I have decided to grow flowering plants of these in winter in preference to summer, to enjoy them at their best.

'Whisper' (Volkman) is another edged variety which may be temperature dependent, but prefers summer. I have only had it a short time; the plant I grew last summer had

large pale blue star-shaped flowers with wide white edges I thought it absolutely lovely.

I was left wondering whether I had done the wrong thing when I saw a plant belonging to another grower, grown over the winter. It's flowers were smaller and not opened out to the full star shape. Also, the transition from blue to white was much less distinct. Perhaps, had I just been lucky enough to get a superior plant? On giving it some thought, I decided that the flowers were probably a bit dependent on temperature and they would naturally open better in more warmth. This can definitely be so with any flower with a bit of green in the edge.

## Green or green-edged African violets.

I seem to find that any green coloring in the flower, especially in the edge of the petals, is more pronounced in the winter and will make the flowers more inclined to "ball" in the cold. 'Whisper', mentioned above, may be one like this.

So too, for me is 'Lilburn'. It is supposed to be a red-purple star with a white frilled edge, and so it was in summer. In winter, it changed its nature radically so that it seemed I had the wrong name on the plant. The white ruffled edge became green and so tightly curled that the flowers looked a bit like tiny red cabbages. The ruffled foliage also became totally unruly. In warmer spring weather, the blooms changed again. The edges are green and tightly frilled, but the flowers open out to beautiful rounded stars. I fell in love with the plant all over again. Perhaps this one needs just mild warmth to look its absolute best.

Many others with a greenish petal edge that I have had in the past have done the same thing, and I have discarded them because of the poor winter flowers. But I will try to persist with 'Lilburn' - for the time being any way.

'Irish Flirt' can be almost pure green, or perhaps green and white, and in cool weather I find the flowers can ball to some extent, but they are not usually ugly. In fact, they can look like the cutest little lettuces! Other greens I have had were rather unsatisfactory in the winter, even where they did well at other times. For me, this semiminiature is the best of the greens and the only one I grow now. It is usually beautiful, no matter what.

## Whites with red edges and centers

There is a whole large group of plants of this type. One of the first was 'Optimara Nevada', followed by a number of Colonials ('Colonial Robe', Colonial Strathalbyn,' etc.). When flowering "true", with their white flowers and frilly pink/red edges they look superb, but they don't usually stay that way. When I grew them I noticed they were more inclined to

perform properly during winter than in summer. In the heat, the flowers became plain red. Attractive, of course, but plain red.

The reason I was slow to observe the temperature problem is that there was another peculiarity with some of these plants. They may, as young plants, start off with their first flowers the correct coloring, but as they age, they often go darker and darker. The solution seems to be to continually put down leaves to grow young plants - timing it so they flower in winter!

I don't grow any of those any more, but I do have 'Optimara Harlequin' in similar colors, and which seems to go on looking good all year round.

### **Violets with raspberry edges.**

Some of these may well be fine from season to season, but for others there is a vast difference.

One such is 'Raspberry Rose'. It has very bright pink flowers with a wide raspberry edge. In winter, the flower colors are so bright that the plant is almost fluorescent. In summer, there is almost no raspberry edge, and the color is just another pink. I keep on thinking I will get rid of it, but when I see it in the winter, I succumb once again and keep a plant or two.

'International' is an absolutely delightful plant with lovely medium sized pansy shaped flowers in pale pink with wide raspberry edges - in the winter. In the summer, its flowers are only about one third their proper size and the color becomes rather muddy and unattractive. I solved the problem during the summer by keeping the plant small and without flowers at that time, only letting it flower in winter when it is beautiful. On the other hand, perhaps I should just concentrate on growing 'Marching Band' whose flowers are a little bit similar, but are constantly good all year round.

'Floozy' is a more recent plant with bright pink flowers and raspberry edges. The raspberry edge totally disappeared on the plants I had during last summer. I am continuing to grow it for now just because it performs so very well.

### **Artist's Palette and other "thumb print" varieties.**

I'm sure we have all fallen in love with 'Optimara Monet', 'Optimara Van Gogh', 'Rhapsodie Rosalie', 'Saddle Shoes', 'Windmill', 'Whirligig Star', and the like. They can look gorgeous with the contrast of the white flower and the color patch on each petal, but - they just don't do it all the time. They seem much paler in the cool weather, when the flowers can be virtually white. In the hot weather, they can be almost solid color.

So you need care, or perhaps luck, because as far as I can see, temperature isn't the whole story with them. In the winter, I had a plant of 'Whirligig Star' which was almost solid red-purple. Why is it so? For me, 'Optimara Monet' has been the most reliable, but that might be something to do with its growing position.

### **Variegated foliage.**

All variegated African violets have less chlorophyll in their winter leaves than in summer grown ones. Some, unfortunately, have such strong variegation that in winter they lose so much chlorophyll they become weak and cannot grow properly.

For me this was always the way with "Fisherman's Paradise" until I understood not to repot it or put leaves down except between early spring and mid summer. It has always done well since - just a matter of encouraging it to come into growth at a time when the leaves would grow strongly.

I know a lot of growers have had similar problems with 'Precious Pink', an absolutely stunning pink semi-miniature. So have I. I have had plants which became so pale that there was virtually no chlorophyll at all in the leaves. Needless to say, they never produced any flowers so they were not a success. I now am determined to try it once more, just growing it as I do 'Fisherman's Paradise'.

So, don't give up on a variety after only growing it for a few months. If it seems less than spectacular, remember you may not have seen its best season yet. Grow it for a while to give it a chance, before you decide that it isn't for you.



## **Awards Needed For 2002 Washington, DC National Show**

With you .... there is Reward. Without you ... there is no Award. Make the difference. Send your Award today! Aren't you anxious to see which plants become the stars of our 2002 National Show in Washington, D.C.? Those who attend the show will see quality exhibits, masterful designs, and exciting new introductions. You'll wander the aisles, almost in a daze. Your first entrance into the showroom will create a guaranteed memory. Those of you who are not so fortunate will be able to enjoy this experience over and over through the AVM. There will be colorful photos and columns describing the blossoms, bud count, new introductions, interesting gesneriads (which of course you must have), what our commercials decided to showcase, and, of course, a glimpse of designs that captured the judges' hearts. Please reward the

people who work so hard all year long to bring you these wonderful exhibits. Your check or donated item makes the difference. Send your contribution for awards to:

**Sue Hoffmann**

*Awards Chairman*

801 N. Villier Court Virginia Beach, VA 23452

susan.hoffmann@juno.com (757) 463-5383

With you .... there is reward. Without you .... there is no award. Let's show the exhibitors that we appreciate their time - that we appreciate our beautiful memories! A full listing of 2002 awards will appear in the January/February AVM.

# Taking Care of the Babies

by Ina Beaver • Canada

Your “mama” leaf has babies that you think are ready to be potted up. What to do?

Wait until miniatures or semiminiatures show at least four leaves on each plantlet and the outer leaves are about the size of a dime or more, according to the variety. Standards should be the size of a quarter. Sometimes, you should leave some plantlets attached to the clump until they grow larger, repotting in some fresh soil as they grow on.

Before reusing old pots, saucers and trays, soak them several hours in soapy water with a splash of bleach added. Always use fresh, light soil. Always sterilize peat moss, Pro Mix, etc. before using. Peat moss may contain fungus gnat eggs, and weed seeds.

Always make sure the bottom of the pot has drainage holes. For starting mini and semiminis, I like to use three ounce Solo cups. I buy mine at Walmart. Larger pots have holes big enough for soil to wash out. I cover the bottoms of these with plastic screening cut to fit the pot. Coarsely crushed egg shells are great too, if I have enough. If the separated standards are tiny, I put three plantlets in a four-inch pot in a couple of inches of soil until each is large enough for its own three-inch pot. I never have enough room. Sound familiar?

Carefully pull each plantlet from the clump using a sharp pencil to ease them away with roots attached. If the roots break off, plant the plantlet in a small pot and cover until new roots form, usually in a couple of weeks. The soil is a bit easier to work with when somewhat dry. Water the next day, and thoroughly on the third day. Often, the semis and minis will develop marks on their leaves if the soil is too wet.

Always push the soil gently around the stem when potting up or removing outer leaves unless, of course, a neck is obvious above the rim of the pot. Remove the baby leaves as the plant grows. They serve no purpose now, take energy from the plant, and look unsightly. These leaves, usually three, are more rounded and thinner than regular leaves. They also never grow as large as the regular leaves.

Watch closely for suckers. Many of the older varieties of minis and semiminis sucker until they decide to bloom. Newcomers - and you are the people I am writing to - a sucker is the beginning of a new plant forming at the base or in the leaf axils of the plant. A sucker usually has four visible leaves. A bloom stalk developing in the same location has two tiny leaves with a bud stalk in the center. Experience soon tells you the difference.

When potting up, fill to the brim of the pot with soil, tap the pot several times on a hard surface to settle the soil, and make a hole the size of the root ball in the center of the soil.

While moving a plantlet into place, hold it gently by a leaf or two, not by the roots.

Never pot a mini in a pot larger than 2 1/4 inches, or a semi in a pot larger than 2 1/2 inches. A standard can start off in a three inch pot, moving up to a larger pot as it begins to exceed three times the diameter of the first pot. Never overpot, as violets prefer to be slightly rootbound to bloom. The soil may become acidic in a larger pot that the roots cannot fill.

Do not fertilize freshly potted plants for a month or so. Never allow plants to sit in water longer than a half hour - root rot, you know! If you happen to allow the soil to become really dry, give the plant a sip of water, another sip a little later, and water thoroughly the next day. Never fertilize a dry plant. Reduce fertilizer during the winter. Never fertilize a plant that looks sick. It is better to repot in fresh soil and cover for a while.

Drench plants periodically to reduce accumulation of fertilizer salts by pouring clear, unfertilized water through the soil and draining thoroughly. Unless you know your water is very alkaline, pour another cup or so of water contain one teaspoon of dolomite lime per gallon of water. Peat moss, the basis of almost all African violet soils, becomes acidic over time.

Always repot minis or semis a minimum of twice a year, and standards at least once a year if they have attained their maximum size in large, always squatty, pots. The bottom of plastic pots give the size and should say bulb pan. The rule of thumb is that the pot diameter for standards should not be more than one-third the diameter of the plant. You can check the AVSA Master Variety List for the approximate size of your standard. If it is listed as a compact standard, it will likely be happy in a three to four inch pot. If it is classified as a large standard it can be gradually moved up to larger bulb pans.

Have a trailer? (Be sure it is not just a regular violet that has developed multiple crowns. You can check the Master Variety List to be sure it is a trailer. Trailers also normally have a larger distance between leaves on the stem.) Your plant should have or be forced to develop a minimum of three crowns evenly spaced while young. As it grows, others will emerge. With some of the cultivars, it is necessary to pinch out the growing center to encourage additional crowns to develop. The rules of thumb do not apply to pot size for trailers. Grow them where they are the happiest. A mini or semimini trailer in a 2 1/2 inch deep plant saucer is a joy to behold. But that is another story!

*From Chatter Journal of the AVS of Canada*

# Questions On Violet Propagation

*How long does it take to get "babies" from leaves? Is one time of the year better than another?*

Usually six to eight weeks. However, some leaves take three to four months! If using my grow lights, it doesn't matter what time of year you put leaves down, but if using natural light, the warmer the weather, the quicker the leaves produce babies.

*What kind of starter mix is best?*

Half vermiculite and half perlite (mixed together). Make sure it is the fine grade perlite which is about the same consistency as the vermiculite. This is called "starter mix".

*What kind of container should be used? Must it be closed, like a terrarium, or can it be open? How about using a glass of water?*

Many growers use many kinds of clear plastic containers - from a peanut butter jar, for putting down a single leaf, to a dome that fits over the trays on a light cart. A few other examples are a blown up baggie, drinking glasses, and containers that muffins come in. Closed containers are best for starting leaves.

However, if using plastic, make holes in the top part. Too much humidity can rot the leaf, and making holes seems to solve the problem. You can start leaves in water, but the end

result takes longer. I also lose quite a few leaves in water, especially when they are variegated varieties.

*How are leaves cut? Should hormone powder be used?*

Cut leaf stems off at approximately 1-1/2" from the leaf blade and then slice off a 1/2" wedge from the front to the back of the stem. Plantlets develop only from the damaged part of the stem. Some growers feel that you should not use hormone powder as too much energy goes into the roots and not enough to the plantlets. Place leaves in your starter mix at a forty-five degree angle, and water with a weak African violet fertilizer mix, a scant quarter teaspoon to a gallon of water. If the starter mix starts to dry out before plantlets are up, use only warm water to wet it.

*How many plants are developed on a "mother" leaf? Should I pot up all and how big should they be?*

You may get anywhere from one to ten babies on a "mother" leaf. If you want a show plant, cut away all but the first, strongest and healthiest plantlet that comes up. Leaves should be nickel-sized and with a healthy center before transplanting.

From the CA Council News



## There Are Many Reasons Why A Violet Won't Bloom

by Mary Walbrick • Wichita Falls, Texas

1. Needs more, or less light. Not all violets require the same amount of light. Plants with reaching leaves probably need more light. Plants that hug the pot may be getting too much light. Change locations. Protect it from direct sunlight with a sheer curtain. Rule of thumb: Standards are placed twelve inches below the light tubes and minis grow well at six to eight inches below.
2. Needs a cooler room. Violets enjoy the same temperature ranges as people. To conserve energy, a light misting will lower the temperature.
3. Needs fresh soil. Repotting standard every six months and miniatures/semiminiatures every two to three months is beneficial to the health of your violets. This eliminates salt buildup and corrects pH problems.
4. Needs a change in fertilizer. Select a fertilizer with a high number in the middle to boost blooming. Avoid fertilizer with urea.
5. Needs less fertilizer. Too much promotes leaf growth at the expense of flowers. Use the constant feed method which
6. Needs less water. The soil should be kept damp, not soggy. When the pot seems light when lifted, it is probably time to water. Water when needed, not when it is convenient. Also, check water quality.
7. Needs good air circulation. Keep away from open window, door, and the breeze from a fan directed on the plant.
8. Too many crowns. "Suckers" which develop into crowns will compete for space, food, and moisture. Grow one crown to a pot, except for trailers.
9. Needs consistent care. Give your plant attention by turning it every few days, removing spent blooms, dusting the leaves with a soft brush, and occasionally, washing the leaves.
10. If the above care fails, try another variety which is known as a good bloomer. Not all violets are equal.

From Lone Star AV Council Newsletter

# Registration Report



**Iris Keating**  
149 Loretto Court  
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

## **Patt Harris – Santa Clara, CA**

\***Little Cesar** (9046) 6/13/01 (P. Harris) Single orchid pansy. **Variiegated** green and white, plain, pointed/red back. **Miniature trailer**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **George Gay – Wickliffe, KY**

\***Burnished Fuchsia Lace** (9047) 6/13/01 (G. Gay) Single-semidouble bright fuchsia ruffled pansy. **Variiegated** dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. **Standard**

\***Fuchsia Lace** (9048) 6/13/01 (G. Gay) Single-semidouble dark fuchsia ruffled pansy/darker edge. **Variiegated** medium green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. **Standard**

\***Lavender Lace** (9049) 6/13/01 (G. Gay) Single-semidouble white ruffled pansy/lavender-blue eye, edge. **Variiegated** medium green and white, plain, ruffled. **Standard**

\***Midnight Lace** (9050) 6/13/01 (G. Gay) Single red-purple sticktite ruffled pansy. **Variiegated** dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. **Standard**

\***New Lace** (9051) 6/13/01 (G. Gay) Single dark blue- red sticktite pansy. **Variiegated** dark green, white and pink, plain. **Semiminiature**

\***Peek-a-boo Lace** (9052) 6/13/01 (G. Gay) Single dark purple sticktite ruffled pansy/white fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. **Standard**

\***Royal Purple Lace** (9053) 6/13/01 (G. Gay) Double dark purple pansy/darker ruffled edge. **Variiegated** dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Pat Hancock – Westchester, OH**

\***Buckeye Befuddled** (9054) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double light lavender-pink large ruffled

pansy/dark purple and raspberry fantasy, variable raspberry edge. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Bepattered** (9055) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble lavender-pink star/purple fantasy, variable striping. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, plain, glossy. **Large**

\***Buckeye Can Can** (9056) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble medium purple two-tone ruffled pansy/darker top petals, edge. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain, pointed, scalloped/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Candy Kisses** (9057) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double bright pink ruffled star. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Candy Striper** (9058) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble light red ruffled star/darker fantasy, rays. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Colossal** (9059) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double peach-pink ruffled star/red sparkle edge. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Crackerjack** (9060) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double light purple large ruffled star/darker fantasy. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, glossy, serrated. **Large**

\***Buckeye Damask Rose** (9061) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble rose two-tone large ruffled star/lighter edge. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, glossy, scalloped/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Dancin' Clouds** (9062) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double white ruffled star/variable pink eye, rays. **Variiegated** medium green and cream, plain, glossy. **Large**

\***Buckeye Daydreamer** (9063) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble mauve-pink large star. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Dedication** (9064) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble white ruffled star/variable pink eye, rays,

edge. **Variiegated** dark green and cream, plain, glossy.

**Large**

\***Buckeye Especially Mine** (9065) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble pink-lavender ruffled pansy/raspberry and purple fantasy, raspberry-purple edge. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

\***Buckeye Fiesta** (9066) 6/25/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble-double rose-pink ruffled star/variable wide raspberry fantasy edge. **Variiegated** dark green, pink and cream, heart-shaped, glossy, serrated/red back. **Large**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Trudy Brekel – Brighton, CO**

\***City Slicker** (9067) 7/25/01 (T. Brekel) Double chimera white ruffled/medium blue stripe. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**

## NAME RESERVATIONS

**Trudy Brekel – Brighton, CO**

\* Colorado Dreaming \* Colorado Firefly \* Colorado Snow Storm

## REGISTRATION CHANGE

At the hybridizer's request, the following description change has been made:

**Buckeye Cornucopia** (8882) Semidouble peach-pink ruffled star/darker peach center, **variable raspberry** edge.



# Growing Those Challenging Gesneriads

by Connie Leifeste

Have you ever felt like tossing a plant because it refused to grow for you? Some hastily dispatch the plant to a friend who grows it beautifully, much to their chagrin! Most of us throw in the towel with disgust. How dare any plant, especially a gesneriad, challenge our growing expertise!

A few of us remain determined. Like The Little Engine That Could, we try, try again. This was my exact predicament. I had attempted to grow a flashy gesneriad species, *Pearcea hypocrytiflora*, a rainforest canopy plant from the Napo River valley, Ecuador, on several occasions. I had seen this plant in bloom at shows and could do nothing less than drool over its pristine beauty. I planted seeds that resulted in healthy plantlets. When I transplanted the seedlings, however, in a very short period of time they were where all good gesneriads go when their growers goof.

Yes, *Pearcea hypocrytiflora* was my ashes of despair plant. But, like the determined little engine, I swallowed my injured pride, took up that standard challenge, and decided to give it one more try. I transplanted three seedlings; about 2 1/2 inches in height on a mound of pH regulated New Zealand sphagnum moss in a covered bubble bowl. I placed the bowl in a north-east-facing window on the cool side of my house, where the plants received high, diffuse morning sun. Periodically the bowl was rotated one-quarter turn. If the humidity inside the bowl seemed low, a weak fertilizer solution application restored the balance. The seedlings languished many months. Once again, I glimpsed that phantom "Failure" knocking on my door.

I deliberated whether "to keep" or "not to keep" the plants. That decision was interrupted when a magnificent Phoenix began to arise. The unique green and red leaves with prominent silver midveins doubled in size. In no time, the three

seedlings had filled the bowl. What had I done right?

This tiny morsel of success tasted sweet. It was fall. The Lone Star African Violet Council show was around the bend. How I desperately hoped that one morning when I checked the pearceas, one might be showing signs of buds. Determined as I was not to allow a long growing time go to waste, I thoroughly cleaned the plants and container and entered it in the "Gesneriads Other than African Violets - Ornamental Foliage Class", where they won a blue ribbon. Confidence in my growing abilities began to return.

April came. I had forgotten about the pearceas. Was I dreaming one morning, or did I detect fuzzy black-red buds emerging from the stems? In six weeks, the plants were a mass of hairy orange-red pouch blossoms with leaves measuring over four inches long. Because no show was on the horizon, I immediately moved the plants to a place of prominence in the living room. My neighbor was drawn to them several days later. "What unusual artificial plants!" she exclaimed. "Where did you buy them... at Hobby Lobby?" Talk about being chopped at the knees again! I grinned politely and replied, "No, the plants are living. (I emphasized the word, "living.") I grew them from seeds."

So what's with this magnificent creation of Mother Nature that makes it such a thorn in the side of some growers and a successful growing experience for others? My best answer: if you like a challenge, try growing it and see for yourself. Perhaps like Capt. James T. Kirk and the crew of the starship Enterprise, you can venture into horticultural space, where no (wo)man has ever been before! I certainly did! It was well worth the journey!

*From The Dixie News*

# Wick Watering

by Ruth Grieco

Wicking, as it applies to plants, is best described as using an appropriate material to draw water from a reservoir up into the soil of a potted plant. The major purpose of growing your violet on a wick is that, as long as you keep the reservoir supplied with water, the plant will receive a constant and even supply of moisture. Naturally, if you normally use water that has 1/4 strength fertilizer in it, you would use that water in your reservoir. A secondary reason is that, depending upon your growing set up, you may be adding a bit of humidity to the air around your plants. I know I have grown on wicks for years, and I raise the plants up on marbles and have the wicks dangle through the marbles. The portion of the container of marbles that is not covered by the plant pot would certainly provide a source of humidity.

There are several choices of appropriate wicking materials. Two of the most common choices are nylon from old hosiery that is cut into thin strips, or acrylic yarn. The most important thing to consider is that you have to use a material that is **not** biodegradable since it will disintegrate and your plant will eventually lose its wick! 100% wool, for instance, is biodegradable and therefore undesirable as wicking material.

Putting your plants on wicks is very simple, whether you are in the process of transplanting your plants or not. If you are transplanting, you will need a clean pot, potting soil, and a piece of wicking material. I prefer to have the wick start at the top of the soil line and go down through the soil, out one of the drainage holes, and to hang three to four inches below the bottom of the pot. However, I do want to point out that I've been

told that the wick watering method is just as effective if you circle the wick in the bottom of the pot.

**It is very, very important that you soak the wicks in water before you use them.** I usually cut the number of wicks I think I will need and put them in a shallow glass dish filled with water and swish them around for a few minutes. I place the wick into the pot, put a small piece of paper towel in the bottom of the pot to keep the soilless mixture from falling out the drain holes, and transplant my plant the same as usual.

If you are not transplanting, and you want to put your plant on a wick, take a piece of the wet wicking material and insert it into the bottom of the plant pot using a crochet hook or small screw driver. I then water from the top to be certain that the wick is sufficiently wet and get ready to put the plant on to its reservoir.

Just one additional piece of information essential for wick watering. Remember that violets do **not** like cold water. They prefer room temperature water. Well, be careful when you wick water if you are a person who keeps your rooms quite cool in the winter. The temperature of the water in your reservoir will take on the temperature of the room. If you keep your temperature set below 67°, the water temperature in the reservoir will be too cold.

If this is a consideration for you, the best way around this is to wick water only during the times of year that the reservoir water will not be that cold. Just leave the plant on the wick, but don't keep the wick in the reservoir. Once the season changes, you can go back to using the reservoir watering system.

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# Don't Forget the pH Variable

by Suzanne Ress

Once the love of African violets has taken hold, the new grower starts collecting plants, and then progresses to amassing information about how to grow the plants. The focus starts with getting the correct type and mix of soil, then moves on to fertilizers and watering methods. Pest control soon becomes an issue as the plant collection grows, with powdery mildew running neck-in-neck with thrips for attention. Once a plant stand is added to the mix, lighting becomes a concern, too. All these variables are soon understood, and plants start to grow and bloom, to the delight of the grower. But there is one variable that is often not addressed until further along, possibly because it is more technically demanding - pH.

African violets grow best in an environment where the pH is in the 6.4 to 6.8 range. A pH of 7.0 is neutral; while a pH above 7.0 is alkaline; and a pH below 7.0 is acid.

African violets prefer an acidic environment. If the soil is not in the proper range, growth and bloom of the plant are affected because of 'nutrient lock.' Nutrients are not accessible to the plant, even though they may be present in the soil. Both soil and water have their own pH levels. You can test each one separately, but you should also mix the two and test that soil/water mixture to discover what your plant's roots are actually living in.

Water can have chemicals, like chlorine, fluoride, or salt, in it, and adding fertilizer also can change the pH. Letting water stand for twenty-four hours before using it on your plants allows chemicals like chlorine and fluoride to evaporate.

The pH of the soil is influenced by its ingredients. Peat breaks down slowly and makes the soil more acid. Perlite

doesn't break down and doesn't affect the pH. It is used to aerate, or lighten, the soil. Vermiculite does break down and affects pH only slightly. Charcoal or lime can be added to the soil mixture to adjust the pH. Most of the commercial soil mixes that are formulated for African violets are within the correct pH range, but it never hurts to test, just in case.

At a recent meeting of the All Seasons African Violet Club, members brought water and soil for testing. The tap water was universally too alkaline, although one location did test at a neutral pH of 7.0. The soil mixes that people were using were generally in an acceptable range, although soil from one poor plant that hadn't been repotted in over eight months was too acidic.

There are simple kits that will allow you to test your soil and water. They are precise enough to let conscientious growers get a clearer idea of the growing conditions they are working with. The general rules about frequent repotting, letting your water sit for twenty-four hours before using it, and leaching (running a few cups of clear water through your plants) monthly, should keep your plants happily growing, as long as your water supply is within the acceptable pH range.

Since adding fertilizer to water will make the water slightly more acidic, it is also a good idea to test water after the fertilizer has been added. People with water that is too hard or too soft have reported good results after they have installed a reverse osmosis water system. This is good for the people using the water, as well as African violets.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS



## Pre-Planning for Sale Plants

It takes approximately two months from starting leaves to small plants. Leaves start faster if put in 2" pots in a tray with a domed lid and placed under lights. Transfer to individual pots as soon as the plantlets have four dime-sized leaves. Keep only the strongest plantlets and separate carefully so that each plantlet has a root system. Use the domed lids or cover with clear plastic for a couple of weeks to give the plantlets time to develop a good root system. Use a balanced fertilizer.

Start grooming the plants when you pot them. Remove the baby leaves as soon as possible, and do not let the plantlets develop buds or suckers. Ideally, this process should be started six to eight months before show, but it is possible to get small plantlets ready for sale in less time. If there isn't time to get the plantlets to bloom, it is important to have a mature plant blooming at show time so you will have blossoms to display. Buyers want to see what the blossom will look like, so our club has a display with blossom samples and Master Variety List

descriptions of all non-blooming plants and leaves.

The sale plants should be put on the same fertilizer/dissolving schedule as for show plants. Sale plants should be put on a high nitrogen fertilizer [12-36-14 or 15-30-15] about ten weeks before the show/sale (same as your show plants). Increase the light hours one hour per week until the lights are on fifteen hours per day.

Continue to groom your sale plants, keeping them symmetrical and free of suckers and buds. At eight weeks before show, allow future buds to bloom, however, the young plants will be stronger and larger if you limit the number of buds.

It is up to you to determine the price you wish to sell your plants. Blooming plants will sell for more than non-blooming plants. Both you and the club benefit from your efforts in producing healthy, pest free, blooming sale plants.

From *The Bloomin' Violet*, publication of the Cedar Valley AVC

# Disbudding Gesneriads for Show

by Dale Martens

In addition to all your African violets, I know many of you grow one or two other gesneriads and hope to enter them in the springtime African violet shows. Although I know some excellent growers who disbud *Streptocarpus* as well as sinningias, I don't disbud them. Trying to time blossoms for showing sinningias is too frustrating. There are a limited number of blossoms per leaf node on sinningias, determined by genetics and the age and size of the plant. As with disbudding African violets, I found disbudding sinningias speeds up the new growth rate, creating larger leaves at the next level of growth. A larger, more mature *Sinningia* might produce more blossoms per leaf node. This also holds true for episcias. Therefore, if you are in a hurry to get a larger gesneriad and possibly more blossoms per leaf node, then disbud. I once timed an *Episcia* for show, by continuing to disbud until the eighth week before the show. It put on an excellent display of blossoms. My *Episcia* 'Silver Skies', grown on a grape-vine trellis can be seen on Ron Myhr's Gesneriad Reference Web site at: <http://home.pathcom.com/episci10.htm>.

I used an African violet bloom booster fertilizer (middle number was 50) to fertilize sinningias once, and destroyed the centers of each and every plant, more than sixty altogether! The Dyna-Gro, Plant Marvel, or Optimara regular African violet bloom fertilizers are fine, but don't use an extremely high phosphoric acid numbered fertilizer on gesneriads.

When I experimented with disbudding streps, and I disbudded every single blossom stem on every single leaf in the pot, the streps decided if they couldn't have flowers, they'd use that energy to produce new leaves. Those leaves were BIGGER than I ever wanted the plant to have since I grow on stands under lights. A *Streptocarpus* produces about seven to nine blossom stems per leaf. It's my experience that this number does not increase if disbudded. Therefore, if you cut off the seventh to ninth blossom stem, that's it for that particular leaf. It'll think it's time to produce a new leaf, not more blossom stems.

On the other hand, cutting off the main blossom stem of a *Smithiantha* has resulted for me in a HUGE number of side-shoot blossom stems. I found this out quite by accident when I entered Keith Jacobson's wonderful creamy-peach blossomed, *Smithiantha* 'Ezra Altamont' at the AVSA convention in Sacramento a few years ago. I had to cut off the central blossom stem (BEFORE it ever had a chance to bloom) in order to pack it into a box ten and a half inches tall for the overhead compartment of the airplane. Before I knew it, it had produced twelve new blossom stems! What an amazing show it displayed for me about a month later!

*From African Violet leaves,  
publication of the Illinois AVS, Inc.*





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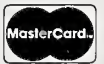
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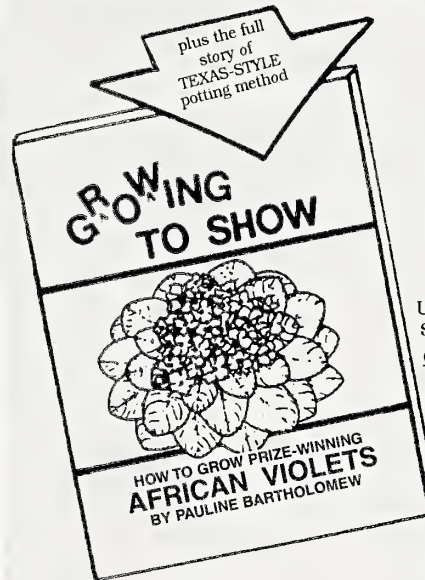
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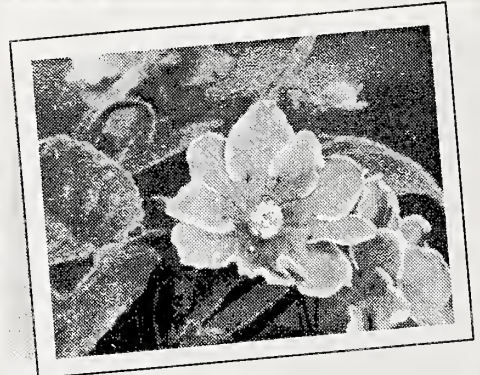
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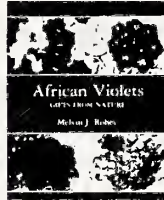


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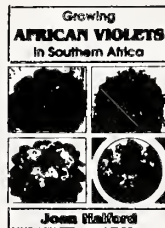


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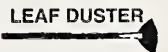
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**"LEAF DUSTER"** - fan shaped brush of pure natural bristle, great for hairy leaf varieties ... \$4.95 each  
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**TABLETOP ADJUSTABLE FIXTURES**

This tabletop adjustable fixture is available in two sizes. Fixture height is easily adjusted from 1" to 24" on the sturdy 1" square welded aluminum legs. White aluminum fixtures complete with wide spectrum tubes, 2-wire cord and on/off line switch.

MODEL TT220WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-20 watt Gro-Lux Wide spectrum tubes, 24" length ... \$75.95 ppd.

MODEL TT240WS...TABLETOP FIXTURE with 2-40 watt Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes, 38" length ... \$85.95 ppd.



**4-TRAY LITE STAND** ..Fabricated from 1" square aluminum tubing. They are easy to assemble with a screwdriver. These stands are sturdy, yet attractive. The unit comes complete with four plastic tan trays and four double light fixtures with Gro-Lux wide spectrum tubes. The shelves do not adjust, but the fixtures are easily adjusted with the new slide adjustment. Overall size 70" high x 26" length x 12" depth. Shipped by UPS prepaid.  
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